CHRISTIANITY vs. ATHEISM

Rebuttal of Bertrand Russell's
'Why I Am Not A Christian'

PJ STASSEN

Bertrand Russell Revisited

Rebuttal Of Bertrand Russell's

'Why I Am Not A Christian'

by

PJ Stassen

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I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star.
And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelations 22:16-17 ASV)

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Dedicated to

Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ

Who, once upon a time,
saw me bleeding and dying
on the Jericho Road of life
when He poured into my wounds
the oil and the wine
of
true healing

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FOREWORD

Foreword. I wrote this rebuttal for the simple reason that, in Bertrand Russell, I see atheists like him as the prodigal sons of the world who still have not come home to the Heavenly Father so desperately looking out for them, waiting. I see the atheist as the lost sheep on the mountain, cold and bare, far from the Good Shepherd's safe, warm, 'gates of gold' where the rest of the ninety and nine safely lay.

I cannot ignore the fact that, in my experience, atheists probably do not suffer from 'Atheism', but from a debilitating form of mental depression. I therefore refer to the 'ABC of Atheism' as the primary hallmark of the atheist culture, i.e., as a group, such people are, by and large, usually *angry*, *bitter* and *cynical.* The remedy for that tragic human condition, i.e., the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is clear.

This I believe to be true: When we stop chasing the wrong things in life, we give the right things the time and opportunity to catch up with us. May every reader of this book give the Heavenly Father of the prodigal sons and daughters of the world and the Good Shepherd of our souls a sporting chance to catch up with him/her.

P.J. Stassen
SOUTH AFRICA
November 2023.

PROFILE OF BERTRAND RUSSELL

"Bertrand Arthur William Russell, 3rd Earl (1872-1970) distinguished himself as a brilliant thinker and mathematician at Cambridge but was dismissed as fellow of Trinity College because he had spoken out against fighting during WW1.

He believed in the theories of Karl Marx but apparently was not much impressed with Marxism's practical application after what he had observed during his visit to Russia.

He was said to have been opposed to the many moral and matrimonial conventions of Western Europe and was the author of many learned works, among others *A History of Western Philosophy* and *Principia Mathematica*. He also protested against nuclear weapons and the war in Vietnam and was awarded the Order of Merit in 1949 and the Nobel Prize in 1950.

The text containing Bertrand Russell's arguments has been inserted into this document in sections and *verbatim*, exactly as it was accessed on the website (see 'Acknowledgements' and/or 'Bibliography')."

Acknowledgements

Original Text: Russell, Bertrand (1927) 'Why I Am Not A Christian'.
Accessed At < http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/whynot.html > [online] 2013

[The lecture that is here presented was delivered at the Battersea Town Hall under the auspices of the South London Branch of the National Secular Society, England. It should be added that the editor is willing to share full responsibility with the Hon. Bertrand Russell in that he is in accord with the political and other opinions expressed.]

Electronic colophon: This electronic edition of "Why I Am Not a Christian" was first made available by Bruce MacLeod on his "Watchful Eye Russell Page." It was newly corrected (from Edwards, NY 1957) in July 1996 by John R. Lenz for the Bertrand Russell Society.

Why I am Not a Christian

An Examination of the God-Idea and Christianity
by

Bertrand Russell
[March 6, 1927]

[The lecture that is here presented was delivered at the Battersea Town Hall under the auspices of the South London Branch of the National Secular Society, England. It should be added that the editor is willing to share full responsibility with the Hon. Bertrand Russell in that he is in accord with the political and other opinions expressed.]

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1. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"As your chairman has told you, the subject about which I am going to speak to you tonight is 'Why I Am Not a Christian.' Perhaps it would be as well, first of all, to try to make out what one means by the word 'Christian.' It is used in these days in a very loose sense by a great many people. Some people mean no more by it than a person who attempts to live a good life. In that sense I suppose there would be Christians in all sects and creeds; but I do not think that that is the proper sense of the word, if only because it would imply that all the people who are not Christians -- all the Buddhists, Confucians, Mohammedans, and so on -- are not trying to live a good life.*

"I do not mean by a Christian any person who tries to live decently according to his lights. I think that you must have a certain amount of definite belief before you have a right to call yourself a Christian. The word does not have quite such a full-blooded meaning now as it had in the times of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. In those days, if a man said that he was a Christian it was known what he meant. You accepted a whole collection of creeds which were set out with great precision, and every single syllable of those creeds you believed with the whole strength of your convictions." (Russell: 1).

REBUTTAL SECTION 1:

INTRODUCTION

Kindness and Courtesy. I concur with Russell on this point. The obnoxious habit of members of society (from certain quarters) to refer to all kind, considerate and courteous people necessarily as 'Christian' regardless of religious affiliation as some sort of blanket term for good people in general is a misnomer of the worst kind, as if other peoples from other religions and cultures are subhuman parasites not also capable of displaying courtesy, kindness and love in turn. It is the humble but strong opinion of this author that kindness, civil courtesy, and loving behaviour is not necessarily the exclusive trait and domain of Christians at all ... even the Nazis displayed these traits at one time or another, albeit selective and biased. On the contrary do Christians accept Christ for the very reason of their acknowledging of the fact of their fallibilities and inadequacies as human beings. Only a fallen race would need a Saviour; healthy people rarely if ever will need a doctor.

Some Personal Examples. All people ever born on this planet, regardless of race, gender, culture or religion, were created in the image of God (the

'YHWH' of the Old Testament and of the Genesis Creation Account) and will probably, from time to time and to a greater or lesser degree, demonstrate such behaviours as kindness, courtesy and love in their daily communion and interaction with their loved ones, friends, colleagues, clients, customers, patrons and most other fellow human beings, for that matter.

Some of the kindest and/or most courteous people I have had the pleasure to know (and of whom the religious affiliation were not necessarily always known) were e.g., (in childhood) a Tswana-friend from Witsieshoek near the Lesotho border, and later many Sotho- and Tswana-colleagues at work; a Finnish immigrant and refugee from WWII living in Durban and making a living as a building contractor; many Indian and Jewish sales representatives and commercial travellers during my long tenure in my father's business; Hindu and Muslim colleagues who worked for my father during the bustling sixties; a Jewish general practitioner (M.D.) who was some in our family's favourite physician; an Indian business tycoon from Johannesburg who had sponsored my father's very first shop; some Zulu farm-labourers in Kwazulu-Natal who offered us an overnight-stay in their huts when we were touring that region on our bicycles (sleeping by the wayside) as young men during the early 1970's etc.; a Jewish commercial traveller who stayed over at our home in Bothaville one night as soon as we discovered our plethora of mutual interests.

The Folly of Perfectionism. Russell's emphasis on the imperfection of Christians, however, is the classic ideological error of the atheist; we *know* that we are imperfect; that is exactly why Christ had died for us, and for the entire imperfect world, for that matter. We confess our sins and acknowledge our imperfection by default as a matter of principle; Jesus Christ had come to die for us to pay for our sins and stand in as the perfect substitute for our sins.

All people are imperfect by default, hence our almost automatic, instinctive, and kneejerk-positive response to the invitation of the risen Saviour to repent and follow Him. The objection that Christians are imperfect is superfluous; the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the Heavenly Father's Salvation Plan-of-Choice) for the people of the world hinges on the fact of our imperfection, hence the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary (Golgotha). Complaining about Christians who arriving at a church service as fallible and imperfect subjects is akin to objecting to a kid arriving for his daily bath in the bathroom filthy and grimy ... it does not make sense. What does Russell think bathtubs are for?

No Evangelical Christian suffers from the delusion that he/she has attained his/her state of grace in the eyes of the LORD God on personal merit; if anything it will always be exclusively on the merit of Jesus Christ's sacrifice,

death, resurrection and righteousness. The very erroneous stance of Russell to equate Christians with a claim of moral perfection, however, is indeed a huge bouquet for and tribute to the moral impact of the Bible on the lives of people over the centuries. That English poet and doyen of Christian Apologists, G.K. Chesterton (*The Everlasting Man*) once wrote:

"The existence of the Church is justified, not because her children do not sin, but because they do."

Moreover, when Russell emphasises our imperfection, it is probably only to emphasize his own glorious 'intellectual perfection'. He, the consummate atheist free from the many 'sinful pathologies' that haunt the rest of us, apparently has no 'sins' to contemplate and no pathetic 'guilt complex' to entertain, so why would he need a Saviour or a Messiah at all?

From what we now deduce is that he, the ultimate saint in the world of Darwinist ecclesiasticism, probably suffers from no known social or psychological deviations', 'spiritual fetishes' or 'moral perversions', and probably considers himself as having arrived as a prime example of the power of dumb, brainless and random 'Progressive Evolution' to create this virginally pure 'superman' in Father Time and Mother Nature's remarkable cycle of universal biological determinism. Only he has arrived ... the rest of the people in the world, all 'biological pagans' and still excruciatingly slowly crawling up progressive Evolution's ladder of cosmic ascension, while still, pathetically, wallowing in the ignorant superstitions of a bygone age where people still used to fear God, keep the Commandments and pursue divine truth, knowledge and wisdom with holy enthusiasm.

Contrary to Russell's typically naturalist and atheistic point-of-departure do we, as a body of Christians, recognize, fully acknowledge, and confess our glaring imperfection, sinful nature and the critical need for a forgiving, reconciliatory and loving Saviour, and Messiah. So, Russell does not have to point out to us the imperfection of Christians. In fact, we are only too painfully aware of it already. What we find so puzzling is how atheists can perambulate through life so non-chalantly, like a Sunday afternoon walk in the park with little Yorkie on the leash, without a gram of remorse or regrets over the harm they may have done to others on their long journey to Eternity. That they cannot see the glaring imperfections as human beings in themselves screams to high heaven.

Any criticism of the Christian's imperfections as an argument against Christianity *per se* is, therefore, ideologically non-sensical, for our point-of-departure (in the first place) is that we are *imperfect by default* standing in need of prayer, repentance, and the reciprocating compassion of a forgiving Saviour. The very fact that Russell so easily identifies faults in the Christian believers' (and the Church's) make-up actually validates the Bible and the

Gospel, i.e., that humans (including Russell himself) are sinful beings sorely in need of a Saviour and of divine redemption.

Why Russell would find it necessary to take up his pen and tell us what we have been saying all along anyway is a mystery; he is only regurgitating information that the Bible and the Church have been telling him for centuries. Imagine this scenario:

> God (to people on Earth): *"You are fallen, imperfect human beings and sinners in need of a Saviour. I have the Solution ... I am that Saviour!"*
>
> Christians: *"We, however humiliating and embarrassing it may be, acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Saviour. We accept Jesus Christ (Immanuel: God in the flesh) as the Solution to our problem and our Eternal Saviour for Salvation!"*
>
> Bertrand Russell: *"I don't like Christianity ... it is a religion that accepts and allows fallen, imperfect humans as adherents ('club members')!"*

If I am not mistaken it was Groucho Marx who once said that *'he wouldn't want to join a club that would have him as a member.'* Now how much more of a *Catch-22* situation (philosophical impasse or cul-de-sac) can one wish for? Russell does not want to become a Christian because Christians are imperfect? Notice the irony: What Groucho Marx meant as a joke Russell, one of the brightest intellects on the planet and top philosophers of his time, actually intended seriously!

Bear in mind that the very reason for Christianity's existence (its 'raison d'etre') is because all people are imperfect *per se*. Russell might just as well have reasoned that he would never allowed himself to be rescued at sea because all of those other co-passengers already saved and on deck were just a bunch of losers, and over his dead body would he want to be seen alive with them! Any reasonable person would probably deduce that Russell was snobbish (worst case scenario) or elitist (best case scenario).

Now, is this not the exact (snobbish) mental condition and attitude that Jesus (in principle) condemned when He admonished his hearers that, in order to enter the Kingdom of God, they would have to become like little children first? The need for childlike humility, including intellectual humility among adults, was routinely emphasized by Jesus of Nazareth during His ministry on Earth. Also bear in mind that Jesus would not have deemed it necessary to die at Calvary for the sins of the world had humans been perfect.

Jesus Christ has died for us, a race <u>not worthy</u> to die for, to <u>make</u> us a race worthy to die for.

Philosophically speaking, we are today a race of beings worth dying for because we have been bought, not with perishable gold and silver, but with the imperishable Blood (Suffering) of Christ. The Bible says:

> *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*
>
> [1Peter1:18-19KJV].
>
> *"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*
>
> [Matthew9:13KJV].
>
> *"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."*
>
> [Mark1:4KJV].
>
> *"When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*
>
> [Mark2:17KJV].

Our hope and focus is not to impress God on personal (moral) merit or with the treacherous standard of classical altruism, daily good works and an exemplary life ... our hope is in the *vicarious (substitutionary) death and righteousness of Christ*. However, be that as it may, in the final analysis Russell cannot and should not claim (either explicitly or implicitly) that he has no sin, for then he would be a liar *and* would be making God a liar too, thereby only expanding and exacerbating his own sinfulness, depravity and imperfection even further. God says that we *all* have sinned and there are no exceptions:

> *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*
>
> [1John1:8-10KJV].

> *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*
> [Romans3:23KJV].

In other words, people who say or think that they are not sinners simply because they reject Christianity are considered *liars* by God, and the serious mistake that atheists are inclined to make is in their erroneous belief that, if they denounce Christ, the Gospel and the Bible, they do not further fall under the jurisdiction of God's judgment, and that they will be sort of excused and exempted from any moral guilt or legal (Biblical) charges during future (Divine) demands for retribution in the Hereafter on the grounds of ignorance. They are, philosophically speaking, venturing where even mighty and powerful angels would fear to tread.

I think it was Charles Haddon Spurgeon who had once remarked that the person who delays his repentance and acceptance of the offer of forgiveness, reconciliation and Salvation extended by a holy and loving Heavenly Father, is only accumulating his sins (especially the sins of unbelief, pride and ingratitude) exponentially as time goes by, eventually only leaving himself with a lot more of lifetime-transgressions to confess (and repent from) and a lot less time and opportunities to comfortably do it in. What a terrifying thought! The Bible says:

> *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"*
> [Hebrews10:28-29KJV].

Bear in mind that the word 'Christian' denotes a person who specifically believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and who believes in the creed of the (literal) virgin birth, the vicarious death (for the sins of the world) of Christ on the cross at Calvary; the literal and physical resurrection of Christ; His literal ascension to Heaven and His literal return or second coming to planet Earth as Messiah and Saviour of mankind, the only true and accredited Mediator between man and God. Evangelical Christians therefore reject with contempt the efforts of postmodernist movements such as *Jesus Seminar, Progressive Christianity* and *Christian Atheism* and others who offer a revised, watered down 'Christianity' in the name of progress, referred to by the Apostle Paul as 'another Jesus' and 'another Gospel.'

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The Bible says:

> *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
> [1Titus2:5KJV].

It is thus clear from this scripture that the whole pluralistic idea of 'religious syncretism' or 'Interfaithism' (as it is nowadays called) simply cannot be accepted by Christians as if there ever can be Salvation (as taught by the Gospel of Jesus Christ) through any other name *but by the name of Jesus Christ*. All religions do not believe in and worship the same God ... period; and all religious roads do not lead to the same Heaven ... period.

Having said that, I nevertheless believe that God is not vengeful, diabolical and spiteful *per se*. He is not the (mythical) Baal, Moloch, Astarte or Dagon of superstitious antiquity, rather is He the loving Heavenly Father of the Faith and the Good Shepherd of the New Testament. As it has been said before, behind a stern countenance He truly hides a smiling face, and somehow He will ensure that, by the time the world ends, all people on Earth will ultimately have had a fair opportunity to hear, understand, comprehend and respond to the Gospel-message in time. It will literally have proved the nations last resort and only hope for Eternal bliss and happiness.

I am also convinced that genuine ignorance about the Gospel will be taken into proper consideration by a holy and compassionate God, for I am not convinced that the billions of people who are not Christians at this very moment were necessarily created as cannon fodder for the Devil and for Hell, and I personally look on the non-Christian babe and child with the same love, empathy and compassion the way his or her own parents probably do. If, therefore, a sinful, fallible person like me can be capable of such a noble emotion toward cultures and religions foreign to mine, how much more will perfect, loving God reach down and with gossamer, divine kindness of infinitely tender proportions touch the billions of illiterate and ignorant masses the world over in the most trying of conditions trying to simply eke out an honest living for themselves and their hard-pressed families?

The compassion of God is legendary, and in response to Jonah's outrage that He (God) was sparing the ignorant masses (and cattle!) of Nineveh, God said:

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> *"And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?"*
>
> [Jonah4:8-11KJV].

This creed of 'justice for all and malice toward none' is thus adhered to as a necessary and indispensable article of faith for most Christians toward all people regardless of the particular adherent's racial profile, his personality type, his personal and national temperament or culture.

Having said the above, bear in mind that even good, amiable and ordinarily very generous and kind people (including Christians) can nevertheless sometimes, under certain pressing circumstances, be deceptively unfriendly and abrupt in public, whilst hooligans and career-thugs of the most despicable kind can, when it is expedient for them to do so, lay on the diplomacy and affability as thick as the proverbial syrup. But, in either case, do not be duped ... God is not fooled or swayed by exteriors.

2. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 2: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Nowadays it is not quite that. We have to be a little more vague in our meaning of Christianity. I think, however, that there are two different items which are quite essential to anyone calling himself a Christian. The first is one of a dogmatic nature -- namely, that you must believe in God and immortality. If you do not believe in those two things, I do not think that you can properly call yourself a Christian.*

"Then, further than that, as the name implies, you must have some kind of belief about Christ. The Mohammedans, for instance, also believe in God and immortality, and yet they would not call themselves Christians. I think you must have at the very lowest the belief that Christ was, if not divine, at least the best and wisest of men. If you are not going to believe that much about Christ, I do not think that you have any right to call yourself a Christian.

"Of course, there is another sense which you find in Whitaker's Almanac and in geography books, where the population of the world is said to be divided into Christians, Mohammedans, Buddhists, fetish worshipers, and so on; but in that sense we are all Christians. The geography books counts us all in, but that is a purely geographical sense, which I suppose we can ignore. Therefore I take it that when I tell you why I am not a Christian I have to tell you two different things: first, why I do not believe in God and in immortality; and, secondly, why I do not think that Christ was the best and wisest of men, although I grant him a very high degree of moral goodness.

"But for the successful efforts of unbelievers in the past, I could not take so elastic a definition of Christianity as that. As I said before, in the olden days it had a much more full-blooded sense. For instance, it included the belief in hell. Belief in eternal hell fire was an essential item of Christian belief until pretty recent times. In this country, as you know, it ceased to be an essential item because of a decision of the Privy Council, and from that decision the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York dissented; but in this country our religion is settled by Act of Parliament, and therefore the Privy Council was able to override their Graces and hell was no longer necessary to a Christian. Consequently, I shall not insist that a Christian must believe in hell." (Russell: 2).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 2: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Russell's Definition of a Christian. True ... a Christian (a follower of Christ) must have some specific belief about Christ, as explained in the paragraphs above. Belief in the principles of 'God' and 'immortality' as a requirement stands to reason, but those are not the only requirements for a person to qualify as a 'Christian'. To believe that Christ was, in the words of Russell, *'although not divine, at least the wisest and best of men'*, is not good enough. On this point Russell has erred seriously.

C.S. Lewis, author of (among others) *The Chronicles of Narnia* etc. writes in his book *Mere Christianity*:

> *"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: 'I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said, would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic ... on level with the man who says he is a poached egg ... or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."* (Lewis: 52).

I concur with Russell, however, that the geographical, 'Whitaker's Almanac' approach to the defining of the Christian is unreliable, inaccurate, and deceptive. Readers are reminded to discern between 'nominal Christians' (labelled in terms of the so-called 'Whitaker's Almanac' approach) and the devout, born-again Christian community of the world.

About the 'Whitaker's Almanac' Approach. For instance, some Christian believers may be of the type who throughout the year may be endeavouring (to a greater or lesser degree) to live a life commensurate with the teachings of Christ; at Christmas-time, however, the other category of 'nominal Christians', labelled in terms of the traditional 'Whitaker's Almanac' approach and usually people who throughout the year have displayed no specific desire for or propensity toward a bond or union with the local or international Church (i.e., the worldwide 'Ecclesia', and not necessarily any particular denomination) suddenly, seemingly from nowhere, begin to crawl out of the woodwork and start revelling and celebrating Christmas as if they were true-blue Christians ... but they celebrate in the typically drunken stupor of unbelieving, unregenerate profligates. This scourge, however, probably plagues all religions at times, not Christianity only. What liquor-abuse, vulgarity and drunken revelry anyway have got to do with Christmas I suppose I yet have to learn.

'Evolution' more Miraculous than the Bible? I do *not* concur with Russell therein that (i) he does not believe in God and (ii) that he does not think that

Christ was the best and wisest of men. If Russell intends to 'do away' with (the concept of) God he must then just bear in mind that the only other explanation left as to why there then is *something* instead of *nothing* at all (i.e., a beautiful and awesome Universe instead of an absolute void) is that the atheist-evolutionists will have been correct and that 'Evolution' has made the world ... there are no other options left. But this option (i.e., where 'Evolution' was really true) would then logically beg the following questions:

- then WHO made 'Evolution' in the first place ... 'Evolution' itself? (A miracle!). It certainly could not have been God who first made 'Evolution', for the 'Theory of Evolution' is at variance with the Bible, the Genesis Creation Account, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and even the character of God.

- Even before that, then WHO (first) made the raw materials (elemental particles, atoms etc.) or building blocks (i.e., *'The Periodic Table of the Elements'*; *'The Electromagnetic Spectrum'* etc.) from which 'Evolution' had afterwards manufactured the world? Did 'Evolution' itself also first make and provide the very raw materials with which it made the world? (A second miracle!)

- And then WHO made the Laws (*Newton's Laws of Gravity; Boyle's Law, Cole's Law* etc.) governing the brilliant management and orderly maintenance of this miraculous 'Evolution-manufactured' Universe? Surely no law has ever been conceived, promulgated, and implemented without an intelligent, educated, creative and authoritative Lawgiver? May I also, at this juncture, remind the reader of the gross anomaly where even atheists and atheist-evolutionists have the habit of referring to the Universe as the *Cosmos* (an orderly world made by an Intelligent Creator and Supreme Being) and not the *Chaos* (a world the result of so-called 'Evolution's' random biological chance). How remarkably inconsistent of them. So, did 'Evolution' actually also design, conceive, and implement all the laws of physics and of nature, without which the Cosmos would have resulted in Chaos, all by itself? (Amazing, a third miracle!). There are more miracles in the 'creation model' of the atheists than in the Genesis Creation Account of the Bible.

A famous evangelist once authored a book with the catchy title of *'I Believe in Miracles'*. Maybe Russell ought to have pre-empted her and authored a book *'I Believe in Evolution Miracles'*. It would perhaps also have been more appropriate for Charles Darwin to have published his 1859-

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book (at best) as science fiction, or (at worst) as white supremacist, political propaganda, but certainly not as 'science'. And, by the way, do not forget Darwin's fundamentally racist motive and typically Nazi *master-race* 'leitmotiv' in his writings, for the true title of the 1859-book, often conveniently referred to by the laity and crafty evolutionists only as *'On the Origin of the Species'* to hide the embarrassing tail end of the book. The reader may verify the validity of this statement at his/her nearest library:

'*On the Origin of the Species through Natural Selection or the Preservation of of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life'*

by
Charles Darwin
(1859)

The Problem of Hell. I do *not* concur with Russell therein that he will not insist that a Christian must believe in Hell. This statement by Russell quickly introduces to the reader Russell's disdain for the Bible; his theological shallowness runs deep. Whose words take precedence ... the words of some denomination or the words of Jesus Christ?

Honest question: Who is Russell to try and rewrite the Bible .... A trained theologian or career mathematician and philosopher? Admittedly, probably nobody likes to speak about this topic, but Russell's stance simply does not make any theological sense. He would have been wise not to unilaterally try and change the Bible when God gave the Bible to change him!

As a mathematician, Russell should have known (via the course of ordinary everyday logic) that the same Bible and the same Christ who warned His followers (and the broader public, for that matter) about *Hell* were the same Bible and the same Christ who 'warned' (promised) believers (and the broader public, for that matter) about *Heaven*.

If any so-called 'Privy Council' (or any religious body and/or organ of state) wishes to remove the doctrine of Hell from the Bible, the New Testament and the teachings of Christ, then that body or organ of state should of mathematical and theological necessity likewise be thoroughly consistent and remove the doctrine of Heaven also from the Bible to avoid a charge of theological inconsistency, heresy and perhaps even blasphemy for emasculating the New Testament and perverting the teachings of Christ (*a la* Thomas Jefferson with his laughable *Jefferson Bible* antics, when he tried to cut all the miracles from the Bible to make it more 'credible'). I repeat the earlier warning to the 'Russells' of academia and science: Don't you try and change a Bible that was given with the express purpose of changing you!

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Joy versus Depression. Here is the deal: No person ever warned stronger against Hell than Jesus Christ Himself, not because He was, as most atheists charge Him with, obsessed with people *going to Hell*, but because He was obsessed with people *not going to Hell*. In fact, He suffered and died on a cruel Roman cross to prevent people from going to Hell, hence the word for extreme pain, 'excruciating'.

That an intellectual of the stature of Russell could not perform this simple arithmetic himself boggles the mind. If we must dismiss the teaching of Hell, we must be consistent and dismiss the teaching of Heaven, in fact, dismiss the teachings of Christ *in toto* ... period (just like the now apparently defunct *Jesus Seminar* cult still proposes to do).

How convenient and disingenuous to want to retain the doctrine of a pleasant, blissful, and beautiful Heaven, but doctrinally dismiss the concept of an ugly Hell, and I am still wondering by what magical theological alchemy this unauthorised ecclesiastical manoeuvre was performed and justified anyway. As much as we may not like the topic or deplore the idea, we will have to face up to the truth, for Jesus Christ never told a lie. Over and above the term 'Hell', the concept of damnation (or to 'perish') was often also addressed in other terms, for instance:

> *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*
>
> [John3:16KJV].

It is clear from this (and many other similar) scripture that those who reject the offer of Salvation by Jesus will eventually 'perish', whatever it in this context may mean. All we know is that Jesus routinely and vehemently warned against people 'being destroyed body and soul in Hell', 'dying in their sins', 'gaining the world but losing their soul' and ultimately 'perishing'.

Apparently He could not warn people enough, and somehow it had to do not with God's so-called 'cruelty' but with peoples' persistence in an ungodly lifestyle as a result of a life of evil and ungodly, immoral choices ... in plain language, a life of unrepentant sin, crime and obstinate unbelief in the very (and only) God and Saviour who could salvage their lives.

Anyway, how can such a serious, grave, stern, solemn and timely warning (against Hell) from such a kind, considerate and courteous Saviour as the humble Carpenter from Nazareth thus ever be construed as a 'cruel and inhumane doctrine'? For Christ *not* to have warned us against Hell would have been the true cruel, inhumane, and 'unchristian' thing to do. What are the atheists thinking?

Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit specialises in (divine) joy, whereas Satan specialises in mental depression, and he (Satan) would do anything to make people miserable because misery loves company and where he is currently at and also is going there is no joy at all. *Hell* is where God is not functionally present, and Heaven does not functionally reign, hence my submission that most atheists I encounter usually are of a terribly angry, bitter, and cynical comportment and demeanour, i.e., referred to as the 'The ABC of Atheism'.

Threats or Warnings? I find it thus unbelievable that the atheists could ever equate warnings about Hell (in the Bible) as a religion of 'threats and ultimatums'. Do the math ... are the parents' warnings to their young and impressionable teenager about the dangers and hellish consequences of liquor- and drug-abuse the parenthood or parenting style of 'threats and ultimatums', or is not rather part of the instinctive or intuitive early-warning-system (EWS) of a loving and caring father or mother?

Do teens not need boundaries and guidelines? The Devil plays for keeps, and no fooling around with the matter about the subject is going to help anybody. New Testament warnings and alerts about Hell is God's merciful EWS ('Early Warning System') for people interested in preserving their immortal souls and their lives.

Hypothetical Experiment: Remove the Bible and the sane admonitions and warnings of a loving Heavenly Father (about Hell) from this blood- and tears-drenched planet and observe how large populations of human cannon-fodder will stumble, *en masse* and without remedy, into the gaping abyss of primitive ancestral-worship and ignorance, sickening occult superstition, pagan unbelief and corruption, and total moral collapse.

Does Hell Exist? As for the question about the existence or non-existence of Hell, a visit to any hellhole of a drug- or human-trafficker's cesspool of filth and human misery, should dispel any unbelief in Hell in about five minutes flat. Tell a career-alcoholic suffering from chronic chemical dependence on alcohol that there is no such thing as Hell, and he would probably laugh you out of the pub. Theologians and philosophers who want to play down the concept of 'Hell' are not only theologically naïve, but also morally irresponsible. What any committees thus has to do with determining doctrines and creeds on behalf of churches and denominations (e.g., as with the 'Privy Council' debacle) boggles the mind. How much do they really know about theology, and about God? Are they born-again, spiritually regenerated or only nominal Christians?

Hell is Real ... even Today. It reportedly was Lieutenant-General George S. Patton who had said, *"War is hell!"* Well, I can add to that; go speak to

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people and hear for yourselves: Divorce is hell; depression is hell; the loss of a loved one is hell; crime is hell; illness and disease is hell; genocide is hell; racism is hell; unfair discrimination is hell; substance-abuse is hell; alcoholism is hell; loneliness is hell; unrequited love is hell; hopelessness is hell; bankruptcy is hell; poverty is hell; lack of education is hell; accidents and natural disasters are hell, hunger and thirst is hell; homelessness is hell; atheism is hell; even an ordinary toothache gone rogue is hell ... so, *poleeze* don't tell me there is no such thing as Hell. Hell is anyplace or condition where the divine holiness, peace, rest, healing, and joy of God does not reign supreme.

Furthermore, while some august Church in England (no names and no pack-drill) was non-chalantly 'abolishing' (the doctrine of) Hell, the victims in the examples mentioned above were still suffering their unrelenting personal and private hells on a daily basis, notwithstanding what these august ecclesiastics in their learned wisdom and sanctimonious frocks had so recklessly decided. Their irresponsible resolution with the discarding of Hell as a tenet of the Christian faith following their sanctimonious pontifications will damn even more, not less, people to the hell of ignorance and a false, deceptive relief and respite.

The Miracle of God's Grace. The farther (and further) we move away from God, the closer we approach the threat and misery of Hell, moral decay, and damnation, and, whether it is a *condition* or a *place,* is immaterial (It may be both). On the other hand, the closer we move to God, the closer we move to the position where forgiveness, justification, reconciliation with God and Salvation becomes possible, not by any personal goodness or merit of our own, but through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, affectionately known as GRACE: *God's Redemption At Christ's Expense*.

Heaven-versus-Hell is a matter of faith, joy, peace, holiness, justification and salvation versus unbelief, depression, hopelessness, guilt, and damnation. Extracting a piece from one of my own articles some time back:

The Basic Tenets of Christianity.

Salvation cannot be earned on the grounds of personal merit based on the performing of good works; or by the working off of some kind of bad karma or by the accumulation of religious credits. Religions that teach 'salvation-on-personal-merit' based on good works are (for instance) Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Roman Catholicism, etc. However, there are people even in mainline Reformed-, Evangelical-, Pentecostal- and Charismatic-traditions who say they believe in FREE GRACE, but nevertheless still act and live as if they follow the

principle of salvation-on-merit based on good works. Good works have their place in the Christian faith, not as a vehicle to attain 'Absolution', but because of God's undeserved forgiveness, mercy and grace through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, God's *Paschal Lamb* slain for the sins of the world. Good works follow gratitude, and not the other way around.

JUSTICE, not mercy? Christians or Believers in God and Jesus Christ who want to earn salvation-on-merit are, in effect, appealing to God's principle of FAIRNESS and JUSTICE and, in Eternity, will want their 'day in court'. That day in court they hope to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that their evil deeds (bad works ... sins of commission plus their sins of omission) were overshadowed by their good works, that God will somehow do the 'math', exonerate them, and declare them 'righteous and fit for Heaven'. This teaching based on moral arithmetic exercises, or the double-entry bookkeeping of debits and credits is, however, foreign to the theology of the New Testament.

MERCY, not justice! The New Testament teaches salvation on the grounds of MERCY or GRACE, and not on personal merit based on good works. Nothing we do can add to what Jesus Christ had achieved, through His blood, on the cross of Calvary. Our hope is based on the righteousness of Christ, and not on our own. Our moral position as human beings is the one of sinners saved by GRACE ... and our legal position in Christ is the one of a chosen generation, of priests and kings, of a royal priesthood. The principles of reward for desirable behaviour and punishment for less desirable behaviour is still valid, but pertains to the scope and quality of the Believer's reward in Heaven, and has nothing to do with Salvation. The cross of Calvary (Golgotha) also was the *result* of God's love for mankind, and not the *cause* of it, as so many Christians today erroneously believe.

'Absolution' cannot be purchased. So-called 'absolution' (the complete and unconditional ecclesiastical, theological, and moral exoneration or remission of sins) can neither be purchased with money, nor with gifts or labour and/or favours from a pope, a priest, a church, or a denomination. Any person on earth who demands or extorts from poor sinners and church-members payment of any kind (including money) in exchange for the benefit of so-called 'absolution' will answer to God for heresy. Salvation is FREE, provided God's offer of blanket-amnesty, made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary, is heartily accepted.

Understanding God's Free Grace. It is important for atheists and other non-Christians to understand that God's gift of free GRACE cannot be earned or deserved. If Heaven (Salvation) could be earned by an exemplary life or a personal life of good works, then why did Jesus Christ die for the sins of the world? If Heaven (Salvation) could be earned on personal merit, for what would we need a Saviour and a Messiah? And if God really derived a perverse pleasure from punishing His creatures, why did He come to this planet to (i) warn us of the perils of Hell and unbelief; and (ii) to die for our sins on the cross at Calvary? If the universal apple of total creation were that rotten, why did it merit God's attention and interest (to remedy the problem) in the first place? Why would an august Persona like Him bother with an unsalvageable rotten apple?

Do the math: If God's free GRACE (operating through the Gospel of Jesus Christ) could be earned (deserved) at all we would not have needed it in the first place anyway; obviously, we then would have had to qualify for Heaven on the personal merit of an exemplary life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.(KJV, www.e-sword.net)

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV, www.e-sword.net).

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3. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 3: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

[Bertrand Russell speaks*]: "To come to this question of the existence of God, it is a large and serious question, and if I were to attempt to deal with it in any adequate manner I should have to keep you here until Kingdom Come, so that you will have to excuse me if I deal with it in a somewhat summary fashion. You know, of course, that the Catholic Church has laid it down as a dogma that the existence of God can be proved by the unaided reason. This is a somewhat curious dogma, but it is one of their dogmas. They had to introduce it because at one time the Freethinkers adopted the habit of saying that there were such and such arguments which mere reason might urge against the existence of God, but of course they knew as a matter of faith that God did exist. The arguments and the reasons were set out at great length, and the Catholic Church felt that they must stop it. Therefore they laid it down that the existence of God can be proved by the unaided reason, and they had to set up what they considered were arguments to prove it. There are, of course, a number of them, but I shall take only a few."* (Russell: 3).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 3: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Bertrand Russell and the Catholic Church. Firstly, what the Catholic Church has to say about the existence of God is not representative of what Christendom in general has to say about (proving or disproving) the existence of God. Be that as it may, the point is that no atheist can prove the *non-existence* of God either. Logic demands that, if the Christian's insistence on the *existence* of God must of necessity be taken by *faith*, then surely even so much more must the atheist's insistence on the *non-existence* of God also be taken by *faith;* he/she cannot prove 'nothing'.

Atheism is a religion, and not an exact science that can be empirically proven beyond any reasonable doubt. It is at best just another religious cult

2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
2 Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (KJV, www.e-sword.net).

camouflaged as 'philosophy' and/or 'science' by atheists, atheist-evolutionists, libertarian thinkers, Nazis, Fascists, pagans, sceptics, agnostics, communists, and even some clerics to make it look better and more respectable in the broad daylight of secular public opinion.

Many, if not most, atheists follow a religion known today as 'scientism', i.e., the blind worship of science. I think it was philosopher of religion, Keith Ward, who had said that 'scientism' is philosophically inconsistent or even self-refuting, as the truth of the statements, *"No statements are true unless they can be proven scientifically (or logically)"*; or, *"No statements are true unless they can be shown empirically to be true"* cannot themselves be proven scientifically, logically, or empirically.

The Field Experiment. Let us do a 'field-experiment': Let us gather all the brightest and most gifted of scientists, astronomers, astrophysicists, cosmologists, mathematicians, quantum-physicists, biologists and philosophers in the world into a large, state-of-the-art laboratory with access to all the facilities and any bottomless budget they may require at their immediate disposal.

We then ask them to pool their collective scientific knowledge and finally assess how much they as a group know of all there is to know about the entire Universe. What percentage of all there is to know (about the Universe) does the reader think will this august group of scientists with their pooled knowledge, do you think, finally be found to know: 100%?; 10%?; 1%?; 0.1%?; 0.001%?; 0.0001%?; 0.00001%?; or 0.000001%?

Only God can prove there is 'no God'! Let us give them the benefit of the doubt and assume they will know 5% of all there is to know in the Universe ... will it not then be possible for God still to 'hide' from their observations (i.e. be obscured from view and empirical detection) in the 95% of the balance of the stuff they still do not yet know? So how can the atheist then prove there is no God?

To even only be able to begin to do that the atheist (i) will first have to know 100% of everything there is to know about the Universe, otherwise he might just as well give it up as an exercise in futility. On top of that (ii) he will have to be everywhere in the Universe at the same time, otherwise how is he going to know in what corner of the Universe God may be residing at any given moment? Do the atheists really think that the mighty Creator of this majestic Universe is going to allow some nerdy lab-assistant dressed in a burger-stained white coat and suffering from chronic dandruff to observe Him in something as mundane, common, and dull as a test tube or a NASA quarantine chamber? Be a mensch.

Here is the grand paradox and ultimate *Catch-22* paradox (philosophical impasse) for the budding atheist: God is the only Persona I know of (i.e.

omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent etc.) who has the knowledge, intelligence, education, know-how, transfinite wisdom and technical, scientific and metaphysical gravitas *to ever prove that there is no God.* That He will obviously never do ... an eagle does not jump into a birdcage of its own accord, and neither will the Eagle of all eagles jump into the birdcage of divine cosmic abdication. Here are the facts, so get over it: Only an almighty God could ever prove there is no (almighty) God; and only a miraculous and authentic Jesus Christ could have 'forged' the now legendary miracle of a Jesus Christ.

The Universe has had a Beginning and will have an End. The whole argument of a *First Cause* for the Universe pertains only to a Universe where the dynamics of *time* and the *Laws of Thermodynamics* apply. The very phenomenon of *time* necessitates a *first cause* for everything that was ever created, as every breeder of white mice and chickens can testify right away.

The very phenomena of the *First* and *Second Laws of Thermodynamics* suggest the Universal bad news of material-decay and the running down of the Universe like an old grandfather clock (i.e. increasing *entropy*) which demands the need for a *first cause* in the first place (e.g. WHO wound the clock up in the first place?). If the Universe is going to have an end, then it must of necessity have had a beginning, and *vice versa*.

It is also clear from the Bible that the current heavens and our planet are sure going to perish ... the Universe is going to be destroyed by fire (probably a nuclear cataclysm of some sort, or worse). The Apostle Peter writes:

> *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*
> [2Peter3:9-10KJV].

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4. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 4: THE FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Perhaps the simplest and easiest to understand is the argument of the First Cause. It is maintained that everything we see in this world has a cause, and as you go back in the chain of causes further and further you must come to a First Cause, and to that First Cause you give the name of God. That argument, I suppose, does not carry very much weight nowadays, because, in the first place, cause is not quite what it used to be.*

"The philosophers and the men of science have got going on cause, and it has not anything like the vitality that it used to have; but apart from that, you can see that the argument that there must be a First Cause is one that cannot have any validity. I may say that when I was a young man, and was debating these questions very seriously in my mind, I for a long time accepted the argument of the First Cause, until one day, at the age of eighteen, I read John Stuart Mill's Autobiography, and I there found this sentence: 'My father taught me that the question, Who made me? cannot be answered, since it immediately suggests the further question, Who made God?'

"That very simple sentence showed me, as I still think, the fallacy in the argument of the First Cause. If everything must have a cause, then God must have a cause. If there can be anything without a cause, it may just as well be the world as God, so that there cannot be any validity in that argument. It is exactly of the same nature as the Hindu's view, that the world rested upon an elephant, and the elephant rested upon a tortoise; and when they said, 'How about the tortoise?' the Indian said, 'Suppose we change the subject.' The argument is really no better than that. There is no reason why the world could not have come into being without a cause; nor, on the other hand, is there any reason why it should not have always existed. There is no reason to suppose that the world had a beginning at all. The idea that things must have a beginning is really due to the poverty of our imagination. Therefore, perhaps, I need not waste any more time upon the argument about the First Cause." (Russell: 3).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 4: THE FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT

I find Russell's statement that the Christians' *First Cause* argument necessitates a *first cause* for God as well quite astounding, to say the least. Russell's problem is that he places God mechanically *inside* the Universe, while Evangelical Christians will tell you that God does not live in the Universe like an ordinary tenant in his own grand apartment block. God sits outside time and is not subject to the tyranny of the clock and the calendar, or of the ordinary, everyday *rules of physics*.

Even the Apostle Paul referred to a fantastic place he called the 'third heaven', so there is no reason to simply assume that the Absolute and

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Infinite Creator must have had a beginning ('first cause') at all. The Apostle Paul writes:

> *"I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I know not; or whether out of the body, I know not; God knoweth), such a one caught up even to the third heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or apart from the body, I know not; God knoweth), how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."*
>
> [2 Corinthians12:2-4ASV].

I find it inexplicable that a renowned philosopher such as Russell could forward such a weak, juvenile, and school-boyish argument against the whole *First Cause* idea. The Universe is a majestic place with wonderful significance and meaning, and the fact that we probably are still only playing on the shores of the vast ocean of God's immense Creation, must not distract our puny little popcorn perspectives from the nobler Grand (but perhaps still hidden) Agenda of our magnanimous and Almighty Heavenly Father.

If God could be fully (scientifically) comprehended and understood by a human brain, no matter how learned or gifted, He (God) probably would not have been God at all, but some alien and diabolical imposter. Dear reader, now be honest ... would you put your trust in a 'god' that you could fully comprehend with your faulty and inadequate human brain, mind, or intellect? Yet, some people seem to want to do it every day. Amazingly, some university professors (with PhD's) still worship the 'gods' of atheism, paganism, evolutionism, scientism and occultism even as I write, and then they have the audacity to laugh at those poor backward ignoramuses in Asia and Africa who worship rats, monkeys, cats, crocodiles, their ancestral forefathers and dead tree stumps.

The wisdom expounded below by C.S. Lewis about the enormous significance of life on Earth is more profound than we think. He writes:

> *"Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. 'Dark' would be a word without meaning."* (Lewis: 42).

The Great 'I Am'. God is the great, timeless 'I AM', the Creator without beginning and without end. The whole concept of a beginning and *First*

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Cause for everything is a concept that applies only to us time-bound and calendar-encapsulated, ordinary mortals in a Universe earmarked for implosion like a derelict building at the end of its urban shelf-life. Russell's theorizing about a Universe that always may have existed also does not rhyme with contemporary knowledge about the Universe, as most scientists today concur with what the Christians had known all along, i.e., that the Universe must have had a beginning, that it is decaying and collapsing (running down) and probably will implode at some point in the (near) future. The Bible says:

> *"But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*
> *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*
> *Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness,*
> *looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*
> *But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."*
>
> [2 Peter3:7;10-13ASV].

The atheists anyway probably have completely forgotten that *eternal things* usually are invisible to the naked eye. Everything we see directly, materially, are probably temporary, e.g. the planets, the sun, the sea etc. Eternal things, like the human spirit & soul, Heaven and even God Himself are invisible to the human eye. The Apostle Paul writes:

> *"For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."*
>
> [Romans1:2022ASV].

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"Giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;
who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love;
in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins:
who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto him;
and he is before all things, and in him all things consist."
[Colossians1:12-17ASV].

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5. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 5: THE NATURAL-LAW ARGUMENT

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Then there is a very common argument from Natural Law. That was a favorite argument all through the eighteenth century, especially under the influence of Sir Isaac Newton and his cosmogony. People observed the planets going around the sun according to the law of gravitation, and they thought that God had given a behest to these planets to move in that particular fashion, and that was why they did so. That was, of course, a convenient and simple explanation that saved them the trouble of looking any further for any explanation of the law of gravitation. Nowadays we explain the law of gravitation in a somewhat complicated fashion that Einstein has introduced. I do not propose to give you a lecture on the law of gravitation, as interpreted by Einstein, because that again would take some time; at any rate, you no longer have the sort of Natural Law that you had in the Newtonian system, where, for some reason that nobody could understand, nature behaved in a uniform fashion.*

"We now find that a great many things we thought were Natural Laws are really human conventions. You know that even in the remotest depth of stellar space there are still three feet to a yard. That is, no doubt, a very remarkable fact, but you would hardly call it a law of nature. And a great many things that have been regarded as laws of nature are of that kind. On the other hand, where you can get down to any knowledge of what atoms actually do, you will find that they are much less subject to law than people thought, and that the laws at which you arrive are statistical averages of just the sort that would emerge from chance. There is, as we all know, a law that if you throw dice you will get double sixes only about once in thirty-six times, and we do not regard that as evidence that the fall of the dice is regulated by design; on the contrary, if the double sixes came every time we should think that there was design. The laws of nature are of that sort as regards to a great many of them. They are statistical averages such as would emerge from the laws of chance; and that makes the whole business of natural law much less impressive than it formerly was.

"Quite apart from that, which represents the momentary state of science that may change tomorrow, the whole idea that natural laws imply a law-giver is due to a confusion between natural and human laws. Human laws are behests commanding you to behave a certain way, in which way you may choose to behave, or you may choose not to behave; but natural laws are a description of how things do in fact behave, and, being a mere description of what they in fact do, you cannot argue that there must be somebody who told them to do that, because even supposing that there were you are then faced with the question, Why did God issue just those natural laws and no others? If you say that he did it simply from his own good pleasure, and without any reason, you then find that there is something which is not subject to law, and so your train of natural law is interrupted. If you say, as more orthodox theologians do, that in all the laws which God issues he had a reason for giving those laws rather than others -- the reason, of course, being to create the best universe, although you would never think it to look at it -- if there was a reason for the laws which God gave, then God himself was subject to law, and therefore you do not get any advantage by introducing God as an intermediary.

"You really have a law outside and anterior to the divine edicts, and God does not serve your purpose, because he is not the ultimate law-giver. In short, this whole argument from natural law no longer has anything like the strength that it used to have. I am traveling on in time in my review of these arguments. The arguments that are used for the existence of God change their character as time goes on. They were at first hard intellectual arguments embodying certain quite definite fallacies. As we come to modern times they become less respectable intellectually and more and more affected by a kind of moralizing vagueness." (Russell: 4).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 5: THE NATURAL LAW ARGUMENT

Natural Laws without a Lawgiver? The only positive thing I can say about Russell's reasoning is that he is positively exasperating in his defence of atheism. I honestly feel that one gets the impression that he had worked out his entire thesis about life in one short, lazy afternoon. Laws without a Lawgiver? How did he arrive at such a brilliant but untenable conclusion? Most reasonable scientists today will concede that the extraordinary phenomenon of the exquisite scientific fine-tuning of the Universe necessitates an Intelligent Designer and the authoritative, powerful, *premeditating* Project-Engineer of a unique Supreme Being. All the evidence point to the creation of this orderly and complex Universe (the 'Cosmos') as premeditated.

The Universe is running down. Russell or the average atheist would probably refer to the natural laws governing the Universe as the result of blind biological chance, the coincidental fallout of some chain reaction from a random cosmological accident. But, since when did random chance and biological accidents create order in this Universe? Since when did chefs bake a cake without a recipe (a *standard*, a *norm*, a *law*), and since when did succulent cakes and nutritious bread evolve spontaneously from the elemental recipe-ingredients? How did brainless, random 'Evolution' know to create the necessary logic, structure, order and the integration of processes (synergy) behind the natural laws of the Universe ... and that without the assistance of any Intelligent Supervision?

The *Second Law of Thermodynamics* anyway rules that things 'left to their own devices' and which are not regularly serviced, cleaned, lubricated, painted, protected or maintained will (in a closed system, and the Universe is a closed system) will *run down* (decay, rust or rot) and will not *run upward* (improve, evolve or develop) of its own volition (unless we believe in such things as a 'perfect mess, a 'perfect nuisance', etc.).

6. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 6: THE ARGUMENT FROM DESIGN

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"The next step in the process brings us to the argument from design. You all know the argument from design: everything in the world is made just so that we can manage to live in the world, and if the world was ever so little different we could not manage to live in it. That is the argument from design. It sometimes takes a rather curious form; for instance, it is argued that rabbits have white tails in order to be easy to shoot. I do not know how rabbits would view that application. It is an easy argument to parody. You all know Voltaire's remark, that obviously the nose was designed to be such as to fit spectacles. That sort of parody has turned out to be not nearly so wide off the mark as it might have seemed in the eighteenth century, because since the time of Darwin we understand much better why living creatures are adapted to their environment. It is not that their environment was made to be suitable to them, but that they grew to be suitable to it, and that is the basis of adaptation. There is no evidence of design about it.*

"When you come to look into this argument from design, it is a most astonishing thing that people can believe that this world, with all the things that are in it, with all its defects, should be the best that omnipotence and omniscience have been able to produce in millions of years. I really cannot believe it. Do you think that, if you were granted omnipotence and omniscience and millions of years in which to perfect your world, you could produce nothing better than the Ku Klux Klan, the Fascisti, and Mr. Winston Churchill? Really I am not much impressed with the people who say: 'Look at me: I am such a splendid product that there must have been design in the universe.' I am not very much impressed by the splendor of those people.

"Moreover, if you accept the ordinary laws of science, you have to suppose that human life and life in general on this planet will die out in due course: it is merely a flash in the pan; it is a stage in the decay of the solar system; at a certain stage of decay you get the sort of conditions and temperature and so forth which are suitable to protoplasm, and there is life for a short time in the life of the whole solar system. You see in the moon the sort of thing to which the earth is tending -- something dead, cold, and lifeless.

"I am told that that sort of view is depressing, and people will sometimes tell you that if they believed that they would not be able to go on living. Do not believe it; it is all nonsense. Nobody really worries much about what is going to happen millions of years hence. Even if they think they are worrying much about that, they are really deceiving themselves. They are worried about something much more mundane, or it may merely be a bad digestion; but nobody is really seriously rendered unhappy by the thought of something that is going to happen in this world millions and millions of years hence. Therefore, although it is of course a gloomy view to suppose that life will die out -- at least I suppose we may say so, although sometimes when I contemplate the things that people do with their lives I think it is almost a consolation -- it is not such as to render life miserable. It merely makes you turn your attention to other things." (Russell: 5).

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REBUTTAL: SECTION 6: THE ARGUMENT FROM DESIGN

The Fallacy of the Evolutionists' 'Lamarckism' ('The Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics Theory'). Russell's referral to Voltaire's nose-and-spectacle analogy is completely out of place here, for we then could likewise raise the point of the evolutionists' many failed experiments (in terms of their *'Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics Theory'* by Lamarck etc.) with white mice, where it was found that by cutting off the tails of breeding mice will not necessarily in future induce them biologically or genetically to bear offspring without tails.

It was also Lamarckian reasoning that had tried to sell us the idea that the giraffe had gotten its long neck from stretching to reach the succulent leaves in the higher tops of trees, and that the North American bear (or Southern African hippo) had evolved into the whale by wading up rivers and opening their mouths to swallow schools of fish. This is science-fiction on steroids gone completely insane, in other words it is not even good science-fiction.

Do all scientists necessarily still believe in Atheism-Evolutionism? Russell's referral to Darwin explains his befuddled reasoning. Darwin has lately been so questioned, discredited and ridiculed by an increasing number of credible scientists that many thousands of traditional Darwin-supporters among the world's scientists are now defecting in droves to the Christian camp, or at least to Creationism and/or the Intelligent Design position (See website www.dissentfromdarwin.org). By the way, I hope the reader has noticed the strange but Universal phenomenon where people, as soon as they come into contact with and start buying into 'The Theory of Evolution', they invariably become atheists? It is as if 'Evolution' had over the decades 'evolved' into a virulently toxic topic. It is (ideologically) quite creepy, to say the least.

Is this the best God can do? Russell asks if *'this is the best that omnipotence and omniscience have been able to produce in millions of years'.* This single sentence reveals so much ignorance on his part that it is almost shocking. Firstly, he assumes a 'millions-of-years' paradigm as a given, which usually is the position of those atheist-evolutionists who deny the existence of God, although some Creationists have also opted for the 'millions-of-years' paradigm in order to mollify their evolutionist friends in the liberal churches.

Christian Creationists do not necessarily all automatically subscribe to Darwin and Russell's 'millions-of-years' paradigm. The 'millions-of-years' worldview has not been conclusively proved beyond a reasonable doubt. To be polite and certainly more inclusive, Russell should also have asked, *"Is this all God could have produced in six-thousand years?"* (I wonder how much Russell would have been able to show after six-thousand years had he

been in charge of Creation). But that begs another question: Is this article the best Russell could do in one long, lazy afternoon?

How old was Adam on Day-One of Creation? How old was Adam on Day-1 of Creation? He may have had the appearance of a mature male, but at the end of Day-1 probably was not an hour older than 24 hours, probably far less. No doctor, pathologist, anthropologist, or forensic scientist would have guessed his (real) age (24 hours) empirically (with or without scientific instruments) unless of course they were privy to the Creation-event.

The same with the Universe ... it may appear mature to the naked eye and even register 'mature' (i.e. 'billions of years old') on scientific instruments, but what guarantee do we have that we are not being duped by the same paradox of the difference between the apparent age (±13 billion years?) and the real age (±6000 years?) of the Universe?

This strange paradox was probably elicited as a result of the whole Genesis ('Origins') exercise, and to try and now wipe Genesis Creation Account from the Bible (in a misguided effort to make the Bible more credible) is tantamount to wiping Creation from history. Any miraculous, instant first and original Creation will probably of necessity carry with it the impression of extreme age or maturity, unless the created object was created in 'embryo-format' on purpose, which would be absurd in the Genesis context. God created fully-fledged organisms, not embryos.

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken of course, for four reasons: (i) The Bible says so; (ii) Eggs do not hatch themselves, (iii) organisms giving birth (and not laying eggs) would have had to come into the world as helpless babes, cubs etc., an untenable situation, (iii) 'c' comes before 'e' in the alphabet and (iv) Jesus Christ fully affirmed the integrity of the Genesis Creation Account when He affirmed the historicity of the Bible by reaffirming the existence of Adam and Eve, Noah, the Ark of Noah and the Flood of Noah.

In the Beginning, God probably made Mature Prototypes, not 'Embryos'. Bear thus in mind that we believe that God has made the Universe and its content-species (i.e. humans, animals, plants, etc.) as *mature prototypes*, not as *embryo prototypes*. I have, for instance, never observed a chicken-egg (an embryo-prototype) hatching itself and raising itself to maturity without the nurture and protection of parents, unless it was being done in modern laboratory facilities by scientists in incubators.

Even the renowned Sir David Attenborough has conceded that, for instance, there is no way that a baby-wildebeest (a type of African antelope on the African plains) could ever survive the first six months of its life without the nurture and protection of its wildebeest-parents. If 'Evolution'

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were really true, how did the first Wildebeest-baby survive? Also, where did the first Wildebeest-baby come from in the first place (i.e., without parents) anyway? I repeat ... there are more miracles in the atheist's creation model than in the Bible's Genesis Creation Account.

And when, according the atheist-evolutionists, the first little fish dared to amble onto the first beach to start developing his little legs in order to become the first little land animal in history, at what stage of his 'development' did he exchange his little gills for little lungs, and how did he survive that, for surely it couldn't have happened overnight? I hope the reader can do the math and realise that without the events in the book Genesis (Hebrew for 'Origins') there could never have been any (biological) origins to life in this Universe at all.

Why is there Evil in the World? Russell's reasoning exposes his glaring ignorance of the cardinal theological doctrines of the Church (the 'Ecclesia') and the most fundamental of Christian tenets. I explain:

- Firstly, God had to allow evil into the world because it was required as a pre-cursor to the principle of *free choice* in the lives and minds of *free moral agents* created in the image of God (Adam and Eve and their offspring). Of what value would a race of robot automatons, pre-programmed not to commit sin and to never set a foot wrong, have been for a God who cherished spontaneous and voluntary friendship, fellowship, faith, service, discipleship, and worship? Yes, a race of robot automatons probably would always have behaved absolutely, fastidiously, and pedantically correct (in complete agreement with God's sentiments and regulations) but wherein exactly would the fun of that be? They certainly would not have been creatures created 'in the image of God'. Hypothetically-speaking, what would be the point for a scientist in making a million little tin soldiers pre-programmed to carry out all his instructions to the letter, and then claim the sworn allegiance from a million obedient tin soldiers? What a joke.

- In comparison with Eternity life on this Earth (70-80 years etc.) is a short and almost negligible period in the total existence of a soul created in the image of God; but it apparently was deemed necessary as 'potty training' for humans in a type of 'finishing school' for the Hereafter. It is here where we are first acquainted with the concepts and values of good, evil, light, darkness, hate, love, cruelty, kindness, friendship etc. It is here where individual talents, gifts, abilities, preferences etc. are developed for eventual application in Eternity. It is here where the baby, child, teenager, and young adult must learn the difference between good and evil, and the awful and confusing

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challenge of moral choices juxtaposed with its accompanying, devastating (or rewarding) consequences. It is here where we are allowed to learn through our (and others') mistakes (i.e. experiential learning) and are taught moral accountability, responsibility, and cosmological stewardship: It has been said that Nature soes necessarily react to out behaviour with rewards or punishments, but always with consequences. When Jesus warned against Hell, He was educating us about the dynamics of the laws *of cause, effect, and consequences* in the Universe.

Jesus says:

> *"He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"*
>
> [Luke16:1012ASV].

Furthermore, it is on this planet in this dispensation and in the short, violent history of man on Earth, where God has demonstrated to us what could and would possibly happen if the 'god of this world' (Satan) instead of the 'YHWH' of the Bible were to rule as the undisputed King of Eternity and Heaven indefinitely. Is that what we really want?

Charles Finney writes:

> *"If it were possible for God to force the will, as He forces the moon along in its orbit, He would subvert the very idea of a moral government. Neither praise nor blame could be attached to any actions of beings who were moved to act in this way. The nature of persuasion is that it can be resisted. Thus, God's creatures must have power to resist any amount of even His persuasion. There can be no power in Heaven or earth to coerce the will in the way that matter is coerced. The nature of the mind forbids its possibility. And if it were possible, it would still be true that if God were to coerce the human will, He would cease to govern morally."* (Finney:45).

Russell's Idealised World: A Disneyland-for-Grownups? I find Russell's objections to the imperfections of this world thus particularly naive and juvenile. What did he expect ... a type of Disneyland-for-grownups? Had he

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read the Bible, and especially the *Gospel of John* together with the *Epistles of the New Testament*, he would have discovered that this world is not our final destination at all. It is Prep School, and we had better learn our lesson and accept Jesus Christ as Master of this School before it is too late.

Russell Contradicts Himself. Russell acknowledges the 'decay of the solar system' (i.e. '*The Second Law of Thermodynamics*'), but then he goes ahead and contradicts himself therein that he had earlier said that for all he knows the Universe may have 'always existed'. As a mathematician and philosopher he is amazingly inconsistent: If the Universe has an end it must of necessity have had a beginning, and if it is decaying it surely must reach a point where it will have imploded and ceased to exist ... so how could it have existed forever?

Who Worries About Millions of Years from Now? Russell says that nobody really worries about what is going to happen millions of years from now. How could he have known that ... has he asked every person that had ever lived? It is a grossly unscientific statement.

Well, I anyway beg to differ from him, for I am mightily concerned about the future ... I do not want to spend Eternity away from the forgiveness of God and the friendship of Jesus Christ, and I am sure most people are similarly concerned about (and/or interested in) the future. Yes, immediate crises may distract us from time to time to a greater or lesser degree, but in the final analysis most of us are concerned about what is going to happen 'millions of years from now'. If this were not true, little corner-shop churches of a hundred years ago would not have developed, all over the world from South Korea to Australia, from Los Angeles to Brazil and from Nigeria to Cape Town etc., into the gargantuan Christian mega-churches of today. Every major religion on Earth, from Christianity, Judaism and Islam to Buddhism and Hinduism has this one overriding focus ... the eternal destination of the individual soul or person after death.

Will Life Die Out? Russell asserts that 'life will die out'. Says who ... Darwin? Even had he been right what business was it of his to author books about Christianity? If life is going to 'die out', why would authoring a book about it make any difference? But it just goes to show the pit of self-pity and hopelessness (and 'Dead Poets Society' ideology) that Darwin had created among his followers and readers. Jesus has, on the contrary, solemnly promised:

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> *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life."*
> [John4:14KJV].
>
> *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my word, he shall never see death."*
> [John8:51KJV].
>
> *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."*
> [John10:27-28KJV].
>
> *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*
> [John11:25-26KJV].

C.S. Lewis. So, who do we want to believe: Jesus Christ or Darwin? I am inclined to concur with C.S. Lewis who writes that the Church of Jesus Christ (the *Ecclesia*) will probably still outlive the Universe! The decision (of who to believe) is easy: Just ask the question: "*Whose CV (Resumé) is the most impressive?*" That will be the one to be believed and follow. The person who chooses to believe Charles Darwin or Bertrand Russell (however talented, civil, and amiable they in their private lives may have been) above Jesus Christ surely is a mediocre judge of character.

Bear in mind that Russell is more or less just mimicking what the Darwinists have anyway been surmising for over 150 years. Russell has brought preciously little new, stimulating arguments to the table.

7. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 7: THE MORAL ARGUMENTS FOR DEITY

[Bertrand Russell speaks*]: "Now we reach one stage further in what I shall call the intellectual descent that the Theists have made in their argumentations, and we come to what are called the moral arguments for the existence of God. You all know, of course, that there used to be in the old days three intellectual arguments for the existence of God, all of which were disposed of by Immanuel Kant in the Critique of Pure Reason; but no sooner had he disposed of those arguments than he invented a new one, a moral argument, and that quite convinced him. He was like many people: in intellectual matters he was skeptical, but in moral matters he believed implicitly in the maxims that he had imbibed at his mother's knee. That illustrates what the psycho-analysts so much emphasize -- the immensely stronger hold upon us that our very early associations have than those of later times.*

"Kant, as I say, invented a new moral argument for the existence of God, and that in varying forms was extremely popular during the nineteenth century. It has all sorts of forms. One form is to say that there would be no right and wrong unless God existed. I am not for the moment concerned with whether there is a difference between right and wrong, or whether there is not: that is another question. The point I am concerned with is that, if you are quite sure there is a difference between right and wrong, then you are then in this situation: is that difference due to God's fiat or is it not? If it is due to God's fiat, then for God himself there is no difference between right and wrong, and it is no longer a significant statement to say that God is good. If you are going to say, as theologians do, that God is good, you must then say that right and wrong have some meaning which is independent of God's fiat, because God's fiats are good and not bad independently of the mere fact that he made them. If you are going to say that, you will then have to say that it is not only through God that right and wrong came into being, but that they are in their essence logically anterior to God. You could, of course, if you liked, say that there was a superior deity who gave orders to the God who made this world, or could take up the line that some of the agnostics ["Gnostics" -- CW] took up -- a line which I often thought was a very plausible one -- that as a matter of fact this world that we know was made by the Devil at a moment when God was not looking. There is a good deal to be said for that, and I am not concerned to refute it." (Russell: 7).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 7: THE MORAL ARGUMENTS FOR DEITY

Good versus Evil: Does it really Exist? Has Russell ever read the Bible? Does he understand the doctrines of fundamental Christianity? Why does he approach the subject like a novice? To deny the Universal dichotomy of GOOD versus EVIL is not only naïve, but also socially irresponsible. Most (if not all) people were born with an internalised instinct to intuitively

appreciate and understand the concept ('dichotomy') of *good* versus *evil* (i.e. *thesis* versus *antithesis*) what C.S. Lewis called the 'Natural Law':

> *"But the most remarkable thing is this. Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right or Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He will break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him he will be complaining 'It's not fair.'"*
> (Lewis: 18).

How many times has Russell, in this very article, charged God with cruelty and unfairness; and how many times has the same Russell asserted that there are no such things as RIGHT and WRONG? So if there really were no such things as *right* and *wrong*:

- how did Russell know that it was 'wrong' for God to be cruel and unfair?
- how did Russell know that it was 'wrong' for God to 'threaten' people with Hell?
- how did Russell know that it was 'right' for Russell to criticize God for it?
- How will Russell ever in Eternity know how 'wrong' or 'right' his arguments are?

Had I been Russell's professor, I would have sent him home to go and properly reconsider the 'right-and-wrong' issue all over again, and then perhaps rewrite the article to make more sense.

What if we took away the Bible and Biblical (Judeo-Christian) Values? Moreover, if the atheists ever should succeed in removing the Bible and Biblical (Christian-Judeo) values from the world, what do they propose to put in its place? What (or who) are they going to use as a norm to organise and manage the world and to decide on what is *wrong* and what is *right:*

- *Caligula?* (The Roman Emperor who declared his horse the 'Pope of Rome')
- *Nero?* (Tyrant persecutor of the early Christians);
- *Adolf Hitler?* (Eugenics-experiments & Facilitator of the Holocaust)?
- *Heinrich Himmler?* (Eugenics & Head of the SS);
- *Herman Göring?* (Eugenics, Head of the Gestapo, and the Luftwaffe);
- *Josef Goebbels?* (The Nazi-party's Propaganda Minister);

- *Adolf Eichmann?* (Nazi Eugenics-experiments):
- *Reinhardt Heydrich?* (Gestapo deputy-chief);
- *Josef Mengele?* (Eugenics & other inhumane experiments on helpless and innocent children);
- *Benito Mussolini?* (Fascist leader in Italy during WWII in cahoots with Hitler);
- *Ernst Kaltenbrunner?* (Gestapo, Nazi Germany);
- *Julius Streicher?* (Nazi Germany);
- *Saddam Hussein?* (Despot-leader of Iraq deposed by George W. Bush);
- *Josef Stalin?* (Tyrant-leader of the USSR during WWII & Jewish pogroms);
- *Pol Pot?* (Khmer Rouge atrocities in Cambodia);
- *Osama Bin Laden?* (Terrorist who masterminded the Sept 11-tragedy in New York);
- *Idi Amin?* (Ugandan tyrant);
- *Muhammar Ghaddafi?* (Libyan tyrant)
- *Attila the Hun?*
- *Asterix?*
- *Obelix?*

Without the Bible the World would probably lapse into Chaos. The point is that, without the Bible's *"Thus sayeth the Lord!"* the world's atheists do not really have a *standard*, do they?

For instance, if there really were no God and no Hereafter as they believe, why would murder, rape, robbery, fraud, and corruption be wrong? And why should Bertrand Russell's right to free speech be respected and allowed? Russell should go on his knees and thank God for his right to free speech and the right to question the existence of God, for it was an intelligent, loving and 'humane' God who had made it possible for him as a free moral agent in the first place. The truth of the matter is that God's free GRACE is so free and so wide and so magnanimous that He will even allow the atheist to question His (God's) existence, His morals, and His sense of justice with the very human brain, mind, pen and hand He had given the atheist or agnostic to do it with in the first place.

I stand to be corrected but I think it was the very Socrates whom Russell so ardently reveres who had, upon this question from another man, *"The bird in my hand behind my back ... is it dead or is it alive?"* he replied: *"The choice whether it is dead or alive is entirely yours!"* The Bible warns: *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."* The choice to respect (or not to respect) God and to believe and follow (or not to believe and follow) Jesus Christ is ours.

C.S. Lewis writes:

> *"A nation may say treaties do not matter, but then, next minute, they spoil their case by saying that the particular treaty they want to break was an unfair one. But if treaties do not matter, and if there is no such thing as Right and Wrong – in other words, if there is no Law of Nature – what is the difference between a fair treaty and an unfair one? Have they not let the cat out of the bag and shown that, whatever they say, the really know the Law of Nature just like anyone else?"*
>
> (Lewis: 18).

Judgment at Nuremberg. During the Nuremberg trials, the Nazis as well as some well-meaning American and British 'hair-splitters', tried to introduce the same reasoning of moral relativism as that of Bertrand Russell and many other atheists today; it was, however, rejected by the Nuremberg judges with the contempt it deserved. William L. Shirer, author of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* and *The Nightmare Years 1930-1940*, writes:

> *"On those other charges, though, war crimes and crimes against humanity – especially those of the massacre of the Jews and of the Poles and the Russians – I felt grateful that they have been brought. To those legal hair-splitters at home and in Britain who argued that you couldn't try men for acts that were not specifically crimes on the statute books when they were committed – however horrible they might have been – there was, I thought, a sufficient answer. Massacre, murder, torture, even enslavement, had long been recognised by all civilizations as crimes and embodied in their laws. As Justice Jackson argued: 'We propose to punish acts which have been regarded as criminal since the time of Cain and have been so written in every civilized code.' "*
>
> (Shirer: 653).

The moral of the story: In the absence of detailed international law and specific, derivative regulations pertaining to the specific and unique crimes of the Nazi-regime (culminating from its sick 'master-race' ideology and diabolical 'Eugenics' experiments), the learned judges had no other option but to invoke the noble, time-tested laws, principles, values and moral codes of the Book of all books, the Bible (and rightly so).

Amazingly, while the Nazi Hermann Göring (1893-1946) was persecuting and murdering Jews and others during World War II, his brother Albert

Göring (1895-1966) was actually clandestinely engaged in rescuing and saving the Jews from the Holocaust of the concentration camps.

The consequences? During the Nuremberg-trials Hermann Göring was sentenced to be hanged but escaped the gallows by swallowing poison, dying at the age of fifty-three. His brother Albert Göring lived up to the ripe old age of seventy-one. Like the two evildoers on the cross alongside Jesus, two brothers, different choices, different outcomes. One had chosen the light of love and compassion, the other ... the darkness of hatred and brutality. One had chosen to ridicule Jesus, the other one to show sympathy, and with Jesus' now legendary response: *"Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise!"* What a sentence! His death-sentence was commuted to LIFE (in Paradise).

Life is about choices ... a choice between Light and Darkness, Good and Evil ... God and the Devil. Jesus says:

> *"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God."*
>
> [John3:19-21KJV].

As far as the postmodernists and the atheists' 'situational ethics' and 'moral relativism' is concerned, the prophet Isaiah has also warned:

> *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"*
>
> [Isaiah5:20KJV].

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8. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 8: THE ARGUMENT FOR THE REMEDYING OF JUSTICE

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Then there is another very curious form of moral argument, which is this: they say that the existence of God is required in order to bring justice into the world. In the part of the universe that we know there is a great injustice, and often the good suffer, and often the wicked prosper, and one hardly knows which of those is the more annoying; but if you are going to have justice in the universe as a whole you have to suppose a future life to redress the balance of life here on earth, and so they say that there must be a God, and that there must be Heaven and Hell in order that in the long run there may be justice. That is a very curious argument. If you looked at the matter from a scientific point of view, you would say, 'After all, I only know this world. I do not know about the rest of the universe, but so far as one can argue at all on probabilities one would say that probably this world is a fair sample, and if there is injustice here then the odds are that there is injustice elsewhere also.'*

"Supposing you got a crate of oranges that you opened, and you found all the top layer of oranges bad, you would not argue: 'The underneath ones must be good, so as to redress the balance.' You would say: 'Probably the whole lot is a bad consignment;' and that is really what a scientific person would argue about the universe. He would say: 'Here we find in this world a great deal of injustice, and so far as that goes that is a reason for supposing that justice does not rule in the world; and therefore so far as it goes it affords a moral argument against deity and not in favor of one.' Of course I know that the sort of intellectual arguments that I have been talking to you about is not really what moves people. What really moves people to believe in God is not any intellectual argument at all. Most people believe in God because they have been taught from early infancy to do it, and that is the main reason. Then I think that the next most powerful reason is the wish for safety, a sort of feeling that there is a big brother who will look after you. That plays a very profound part in influencing people's desire for a belief in God." (Russell: 8).

REBUTTAL:
SECTION 8: THE ARGUMENT FOR THE REMEDYING OF JUSTICE

Even some Angels were found to be sinful. Admittedly and regrettably, the Bible says that even among the angels error could still be found:

> *"And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."*

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[Jude1:6ASV].

The Fall of Man in Eden: Was God really caught 'Off Guard'? The phenomenon of evil stretches even further that we can ever imagine. For fear of repeating myself, however, I wish to refer the reader back to *Section 5: The Argument From Design*. In that chapter I have already said that evil was allowed into this world, not by some nasty accident or diabolical administrative oversight, but because God needed to practically illustrate the difference between good and evil in order to establish the principle of *free choice* for the *free moral agents* of humans created in His image.

Anyone who still teaches, preaches, or believes the old Sunday School tale that God was taken by complete surprise by Adam and Eve's indiscretions in Eden does not understand the power and mind of God, and the Salvation-message of the Gospel. The Bible clearly and emphatically states that God had prepared the body of Jesus Christ as a vicarious sacrifice for the fall and sin of mankind *long before the foundation of the Earth was laid* ... so He must have fully anticipated the fall of man in Eden long before it actually happened.

Nothing could have or will ever take God by surprise. The very fact that angels had, long before the fall of man, 'left their proper habitation' (i.e. had rebelled and sinned) confirms the principle of *free moral choice*, *even in Heaven*.

Free Moral Agency. *Voluntary (and not coerced) goodness* in the *free moral agent* exercising *free moral choice* is, in this Universe anyway, technically impossible without evil, for how will we *ever (in the dichotomy of good versus evil)* discern the difference between *good* and *evil* without a sound appreciation for and working knowledge of both concepts in daily experience and practice? Experiential learning would be next to impossible without the opportunity for error and mistakes, or for the opportunity *to sin* or *not to sin*. Every opportunity that presents itself to man *to sin* is also an opportunity for him *not to sin;* or the opportunity to *commit crime* and the opportunity *not to commit crime.* Again the choice is ours. That is how character is developed, as Plato so dutifully reminded us when he spoke of the greater value of (delayed) long-term reward as compared to the short-term gratification of uncontrolled hedonism.

Bear in mind that we live in a broken world, hence, the case of a pedestrian killed by accident by a car and the case of a pedestrian killed by a car on purpose are two different things: In the first instance it may have been by negligence or pure chance due to conditions on the road or in the traffic; it is was not a sinful act. In the second instance it clearly was a criminal (sinful) act. Russell tends to overlook the fact that, although some of us may be brilliant mathematicians and philosophers or gifted theologians and journalists, we are all still helpless, ignorant, and fumbling little (intellectual)

infants in comparison with a God with an I.Q. of probably ∞ (*Infinity* to the power of *Infinity*).

Value is determined by Comparison. Intrinsic *value* is (among others) also determined by *comparison* (of the relevant products, things, ideas, doctrines, ideologies, theories, philosophies, teachings, religions, concepts, objects, goods, or artefacts etc.). Russell's Disneyland-for-grownups-worldview for Christianity where nothing ever goes wrong or nobody ever does wrong or where no evil exists (in the guise of pre-programmed robot automatons) certainly would not have cut it for Creation.

In C.S. Lewis's idiom, I want to reiterate that, after having come into contact with the kindness of our loving Saviour and that humble Carpenter-rabbi from Nazareth, it would be next to impossible for us to accept what Lewis calls the 'cataract of nonsense' pouring from the world's radios and presses under the guise of 'Noble Philosophical Truth' or 'Transcendental Spirituality', while it carries the lethal germ of the atheism-plague in its sinister vials. Charles Finney also writes:

> *"In His omnipresence He* (GOD) *could prevent some sin in this race of moral agents; He could overrule what He could not wisely prevent, so as to bring out from it a great deal of good. Thus, in the long run, He saw it better, with all the results before Him, to create man as a moral agent rather to hold back from doing so. Therefore, wisdom and love made it necessary for Him to create man as such. Having the power to create a race of moral beings – having also the power to convert and save a vast multitude of them, and power to overrule the sin He would not prevent so that it would bring immense good – how could He not create man as He did?"*
>
> (Finney: 50).

Paradise an Exalted Place. Nevertheless, having said all the above, this does not mean that where God lives evil necessarily still reigns. There must of necessity be a good deal of a moral, socio-cultural, aesthetic, and metaphysical difference between the (transfinite) *Paradise* of the New Testament and this old broken world we're living in. Anyone who reads *The Book of Revelations* and the rest of the Bible with an open mind will understand what I mean.

Three scenarios to consider. Imagine the following three scenarios where the reader has, hypothetically, in an experiment been mandated to create a 'planet' populated with 'people' with these three options to consider:

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OPTION A: Create a species of humans that has been programmed to be EVIL only with no propensity or any capacity for GOOD. (They cannot help it to be anything but evil, cruel, brutal, unkind, dishonest, unfaithful, unsympathetic, disloyal and inhumane among themselves). Will such a society be viable?

OPTION B: Create a species of humans that has been programmed to be GOOD only with no propensity or capacity for EVIL. (They cannot help it to be anything but good, kind, honest, emphatic, sympathetic, loyal, faithful, humane). Will such a community be viable?

OPTION C: Create a species of humans that has been imbued with the divine attributes of the Creator Himself, i.e., to have free will and the discretion to choose between being (i) cruel, brutal, inhumane, and unkind versus being (ii) humane, kind, compassionate and decent? Will such a community be viable?

ASSESSMENT:

(i) Option A would not be viable because an evil community/society would be auto-destructive and probably make such a society extinct within a generation or three. There would be no respect for the rule of law, no discipline, no kindness, no public order. In the case of Christianity, would God have appreciated such a society? Would such a community have had any respect for God and the values of the Bible? Would giving them the 'Ten Commandments' as a moral compass to live by have had any beneficial effect?

(ii) Option B would not be viable because the 'people' from this society, although permanently kind, humane, compassionate, and decent, would not be like that out of their own volition; they would be like that only because they were 'programmed' to be that way, i.e., walking around like tin soldiers and automatons just smiling and being kind and amiable all day long. In the case of Christianity, would God have enjoyed a community of people created and programmed to be exclusively kind and decent all the time? What would the worship and obedience of eight billion tin soldiers have been worth to God?

(iii) Option C would, by any rational standards, obviously be, as far as Christianity is concerned, the ideal society as far as the

> values and attributes of God were concerned, because in such a society people would be either kind and decent (or unkind and not decent/indecent) out of their own volition and not because they were 'programmed' that way. People would, in other words, be *authentic.*

It thus stands to reason that, we as humans with our little peanut & popcorn perspectives and who are frail and fallible (only 'seeing' in part) would find such a free society as Option C distasteful and disagreeable. Atheists especially, with their belief in the idea of death-after-death (and not in the Hereafter) and who consequently must live and operate in a perpetual haze and atmosphere of anger, bitterness and cynicism (the ABC of Atheism) probably will find such a 'free' society particularly distasteful and disagreeable, because this life on earth is the only prospect they have to protect, live and hope for. The Christian knows, however, that *death* is not the end of living, *but the end of dying.* The Apostle Paul has said:

> *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."*
>
> [1Corintians2:7-9KJV].

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9. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 9: THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

[Bertrand Russell speaks*]: "I now want to say a few words upon a topic which I often think is not quite sufficiently dealt with by Rationalists, and that is the question whether Christ was the best and the wisest of men. It is generally taken for granted that we should all agree that that was so. I do not myself. I think that there are a good many points upon which I agree with Christ a great deal more than the professing Christians do. I do not know that I could go with Him all the way, but I could go with Him much further than most professing Christians can.*

"You will remember that He said: 'Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.' That is not a new precept or a new principle. It was used by Lao-Tse and Buddha some 500 or 600 years before Christ, but it is not a principle which as a matter of fact Christians accept. I have no doubt that the present Prime Minister, for instance, is a most sincere Christian, but I should not advise any of you to go and smite him on one cheek. I think you might find that he thought this text was intended in a figurative sense. Then there is another point which I consider excellent. You will remember that Christ said, 'Judge not lest ye be judged.'

"That principle I do not think you would find was popular in the law courts of Christian countries. I have known in my time quite a number of judges who were very earnest Christians, and they none of them felt that they were acting contrary to Christian principles in what they did. Then Christ says, 'Give to him that asketh of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn thou not away.' This is a very good principle. Your chairman has reminded you that we are not here to talk politics, but I cannot help observing that the last general election was fought on the question of how desirable it was to turn away from him that would borrow of thee, so that one must assume that the liberals and conservatives of this country are composed of people who do not agree with the teaching of Christ, because they certainly did very emphatically turn away on that occasion.

"Then there is one other maxim of Christ which I think has a great deal in it, but I do not find that it is very popular among some of our Christian friends. He says, 'If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor.' That is a very excellent maxim, but, as I say, it is not much practiced. All these, I think, are good maxims, although they are a little difficult to live up to. I do not profess to live up to them myself; but then, after all, I am not by way of doing so, and it is not quite the same thing as for a Christian."

REBUTTAL: SECTION 9; THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

Was Jesus Christ a pacifist? Russell quotes Jesus' words, *"Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."* Then he, like a scolded infant, objects to Mr. Winston Churchill's ('unchristian') propensity for war (e.g. against Nazi-Germany etc.).

Firstly, Jesus Christ clearly was *not* a pacifist. He whipped the money-changers and sellers of pigeons in the temple-periphery as if they were disobedient, recalcitrant children, and later said to Pontius Pilate that, had His kingdom been of this world, He actually would, of necessity, *have expected His servants to fight:*

> *"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."*
>
> [John18:36ASV].

Sometimes Christians must resist, rebel and fight. So the whole idea that Christians must (always and unconditionally) behave like spineless cowards for every silly and sordid reason is absurd. If the civilised (Christian) world had not stood up to Mussolini's *Fascism* and Hitler's *Nazism*, where would civilisation have been today?

The Bible teaches responsible government and justice for the people. Christians have a moral duty to monitor social conditions and actively resist tyranny, despotism, totalitarianism, fraud, corruption, etc. especially in governments and dictatorships. Christians should be out there to protect the underdog, the innocent, the trampled-upon and the brutalised, even if it means clashing with the authorities and the rooting out of incompetence, despotism, brutality, and corruption. Not to have enforced law and order in the fight against evil, tyranny, crime, and injustice would have been the real cruelty, the real injustice. In Christianity, and in God's view too, I surmise, the welfare and comfort of innocent victims will always take precedence over the welfare and comfort of the perpetrator of evil, however uncomfortable it may seem to the perpetrator.

Bear in mind Jesus' words (my paraphrasing): *"If my kingdom were of this world, my followers would fight!?"* . Does that sound like the words of a sworn pacifist? Besides, Jesus told His disciples (my paraphrasing): *"Don't you think I could not call twelve legions of angels to come and rescue me?"* He did not avail Himself of this privilege because His kingdom was not of this world and such a divine intervention from twelve legions of warrior angels would not have served His or His Father's purpose. Besides, if 'Heaven' were such a sweet, innocent, and peaceful place, why would God have considered it expedient to keep hordes of warrior angel legions at his beg and call? I have a hunch there is more to Creation (including in the 'Heavenlies') than we can imagine. God is a (holy) God of Law and Order, and Law and Order is only needed where societies have a free choice and the capacity to either break or keep its laws. Maybe Heaven is also such a place.

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A Case History. As a case in point, it so happened that, in a firm where I once worked we were one day *forced* by our employer to 'volunteer' for the fire-fighting squad to help fight and douse fires on a 1500 ft. mountain adjacent to the mine where we operated and lived, as the many unpredictable spontaneous fires, so often ignited by lighting, threatened the safe operation of the mine. None of us was given any choice in the matter, regardless of the fact that the instruction was not part of our original conditions-of-employment, our letters-of-appointment, or our approved and authorised job descriptions.

However, for the sake of good relationships with top management, and because we were not sure of our employee-rights in terms of the *Basic-Conditions of Employment Act* and the *Labour Law,* we sort of subserviently, like village idiots, followed suit. The last straw was when one of my fire-fighting 'colleagues', one afternoon, after a hectic session on the burning mountain, made this chance remark: *"I suppose, if we were really Christians, we would do this in terms of Jesus' admonition in the Bible for us to always turn the other cheek."* That guy should never have said that, for from that moment on we were at war with top management.

We went to our labour union, registered a formal grievance, and then withdrew from the so-called mandatory 'voluntary' fire-fighting squad with immediate effect. Our position was that it was immoral, unethical, and plainly illegal for top management to simply assume that it was okay for them to coerce us into 'volunteering' for this task simply because they wielded the power in the firm and also the means with which to exact negative consequences for us should we ever have dared to resist. It was immoral and unethical for them to subjugate us like that illegally without a formally negotiated agreement and legal appointment, and, to add further insult to injury, then even try to abuse the Bible (subtly, by indirect implication) to bludgeon us, using the 'turn-the-other-cheek' argument, theologically into that illegal subjugation.

Ironically, the general manager of the company, who had not been aware of the diabolical schemes of his conniving lieutenants, was furious when he eventually heard of our predicament. He ordered the immediate (formal) appointment of a legally-constituted fire-fighting 'proto team', comprising only voluntary members for the specific purpose of fire-fighting, exactly and strictly according to legislation. So, the issue was finally resolved in an ethical, correct and professional way.

The moral of the story: For us to have subserviently 'turned the other cheek' indefinitely would have been the gross, unchristian thing for top management to morally allow. Christians should be wary of the illegal and unethical exploitation of their faith by unscrupulous businessmen and

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employers. Besides, it is one thing to turn the other cheek when someone smacks you on the cheek, but what if he/she smacks you on the nose?

What Jesus meant. What Jesus meant with 'turning the other cheek' applies to personal relationships and private social-interaction styles. Diplomacy, humility, kindness, gentleness and courtesy toward one's adversary or opponent during conflict situations between people can sometimes go a long way toward diffusing explosive situations and disarming an unfriendly adversary.

Having said that, however, it still does not give employers, organisations, societies, communities, governments, and politicians (or criminals and warmongers) the right to abuse others, subjugate them mercilessly and defraud and hurt them just because Jesus once had said we must 'turn the other cheek'. Russell's naïveté in this regard is a great ideological blunder, and for Churchill (and Roosevelt, Smuts, Eisenhower, Montgomery, and Patton etc.) not to have resisted the tyrant Hitler would have been a most unchristian thing to do or to allow; it is called the 'sin of omission'.

The Nazis attacked First. Russell must have overlooked the fact that the Nazi Government was the belligerent aggressor. The British were minding their own business when bombs suddenly started falling on London, not to speak of Hitler's unasked for (earlier and later) incursions into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Norway, Belgium, the Balkans, Russia etc.). That was a most cowardly, dastardly thing for the Nazis to do, and that in the name of 'Nazi courage'! Such unasked for infamy! It will be a sad day when a healthy young man can no longer protect and defend the honour of his mother, sister, wife and daughter (and personal property) against the unprovoked incursions of uninvited and murderous brutes.

For instance, as an example in Russia, during WWII, some members of Hitler's 'Waffen SS' thought nothing of nailing a little three-year old toddler live to the wooden poles of a fence leaving him to predators and the elements to die while his murdered parents, innocent civilians, lay dead in the house. Churchill's Christian kindness belonged first and foremost to his own people, and only then to any others in the opposite belligerent crowd, if at all.

About Judges and Judging. Russell complains about the cavalier way in which judges judge other people in law courts across the land and that in spite of Christ's injunction of: *"Judge not lest ye be judged."*

Again, this injunction was all about personal relationships. When Jesus said this, He wasn't addressing the High Court, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, or the U.S. Legislative. He was addressing ordinary people. He said this because we are so inclined to judge our neighbour

before we have all the relevant facts and to remind us that, should we go so far as to judge anyway, we must just remember that the Heavenly Courts of God's personal holy moral standards will then, in future, exact from us the same moral standard should push ever come to shove. In personal relationships, Christians are supposed to judge others (when they judge others) with compassion, understanding and charity in their hearts.

Furthermore, bear in mind that there is quite a difference between the concept of a formal *judgment* (for instance, during a formal hearing by a Judge in a Court of Law) and an informal *judgement* (an opinion informally expressed in an informal setting during conversation). Jesus clearly had had a problem with our many prejudices as human beings and admonished his disciples to be more tolerant and exhibit a bit more kindness to each other and other people. Jesus surely must have been the most underrated relationship-expert that had ever lived. To abolish the Justice System to exclusively accommodate this teaching of Christ would be a misinterpretation of Scripture and a miscarriage of justice; God always was and still is the ultimate Champion of Justice:

> *"Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."*
>
> [Isaiah1:17KJV].
>
> *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."*
>
> [Jeremiah23:5KJV].
>
> *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD."*
>
> [Ezekiel45:9KJV].

A Justice System is indispensable for Order in Society. The judges that Russell was referring to were not at all acting contrary to Christian principles. I wonder if Russell ever has read the Bible in connection with the *Great White Throne Judgment* that is coming at the end of the age? Or that the same Christ he so cavalierly badmouthed and denigrated in his writ will be the *Presiding Chief Justice* on the Great White Throne of Judgment Day? He must have missed that one.

Nevertheless, the unchristian and unkind thing to do would be to let criminals run free and such shady 'citizens' to defraud their neighbours with impunity, without the checks and balances of a stern but fair legal justice system. Prisons were not only devised and installed to punish criminals, but

also to restrain them without necessarily always having to maim, hurt or execute them, otherwise vulnerable citizens (especially innocent women and children etc.) would have been at the mercy of all kinds of brutes, serial killers, warmongers, and dangerous psychopaths.

Even in Old Testament times the Israelites appointed judges who were tasked to judge arguments between neighbours or hear criminal charges against (alleged) perpetrators (civil proceedings versus criminal proceedings). A worldwide child-porn ring, with tentacles stretching from and to the USA, Australia, Canada, and Great Britain, has just been exposed, as I write, in my country of South Africa. What are the Christian parents to do ... turn the other cheek? Over my proverbial 'dead body'! A kind and benevolent God will thus instinctively either punish or restrain criminals (or both) because the human rights, safety and freedoms of the underdog and victim always takes moral precedence over that of the violent and unreasonable perpetrator. I must in all honesty say that it will appear as if Russell approaches the Bible and the teachings of Moses and Jesus Christ with the mind of a naïve, inexperienced adolescent or juvenile.

What does it mean to be Perfect? Russell goes on to object against the teachings of, *"Give to him that asketh of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn thou not away."* And also, *"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor."* Again this refers to personal relationships between people in communities, not to business enterprises and government departments. Many of us probably sometimes fail in Christ's injunction to help people out (in private situations) with money etc., but it still does not mean that my bank or the government's treasury has a moral obligation to lend me money or grant a loan for my ailing business, just because Jesus had said so. Again I must stress that I find Russell's reasoning exasperatingly naïve. Even the Muslim's tradition of granting loans without charging interest is unscriptural in Biblical terms (but it is not 'sin' ... it is his money to do with how he chooses).

When Christ admonished the rich young man, in order to be 'perfect', to sell everything that he had and give the money to the poor, He was doing it in a particular context: Here was a young man so self-sufficient and self-satisfied, and so puffed up with his own inflated spirituality (probably the 'spoilt brat' of my era suffering from a lethal dose of 'suburban affluenza') that Christ of necessity had to remind him of a higher standard and of the fact that he had not 'arrived' yet ... there is (and probably always will be) a higher standard and a higher calling to heed and to strive for. We are not all on the same trajectory or learning curve in the pilgrimage of life.

This lesson was for this particular person and for this specific situation, but that does not necessarily apply to all Christians at all times, and Russell certainly does not have to sell all his possessions and give it to the poor. In

fact, had all Christians been poor and destitute social derelicts at all times they would not have been of any use to the 'poor'. On the other hand, the wealthier and more successful Christians as citizens are, the more wealth can voluntarily be shared with others less fortunate (and that is exactly what probably is happening in most successful Christian societies ... they may just not be boasting about it). I am not talking about socialism; I am talking about altruism, charity, welfare, philanthropy.

It is no coincidence that one of the most Christian economies in the world, i.e., the USA, is also one of the most benevolent societies in the world, spending astronomical sums on international aid, missionary work and humane assistance in other countries. No, I am not American.

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10. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 10: DEFECTS IN CHRIST'S TEACHING

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Having granted the excellence of these maxims, I come to certain points in which I do not believe that one can grant either the superlative wisdom or the superlative goodness of Christ as depicted in the Gospels; and here I may say that one is not concerned with the historical question. Historically, it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all, and if He did we do not know anything about Him, so that I am not concerned with the historical question, which is a very difficult one. I am concerned with Christ as He appears in the Gospels, taking the Gospel narrative as it stands, and there one does find some things that do not seem to be very wise. For one thing, he certainly thought his second coming would occur in clouds of glory before the death of all the people who were living at that time. There are a great many texts that prove that. He says, for instance: 'Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of Man be come.'*

"Then He says: 'There are some standing here which shall not taste death till the Son of Man comes into His kingdom'; and there are a lot of places where it is quite clear that He believed His second coming would happen during the lifetime of many then living. That was the belief of his earlier followers, and it was the basis of a good deal of His moral teaching. When He said, 'Take no thought for the morrow,' and things of that sort, it was very largely because He thought the second coming was going to be very soon, and that all ordinary mundane affairs did not count. I have, as a matter of fact, known some Christians who did believe the second coming was imminent. I knew a parson who frightened his congregation terribly by telling them that the second coming was very imminent indeed, but they were much consoled when they found that he was planting trees in his garden. The early Christians really did believe it, and they did abstain from such things as planting trees in their gardens, because they did accept from Christ the belief that the second coming was imminent. In this respect clearly He was not so wise as some other people have been, and he certainly was not superlatively wise." (Russell: 10).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 10: DEFECTS IN CHRIST'S TEACHING

The Primary Purpose with Christ's Teachings. The primary purpose with Christ's teachings (first and foremost) was not for us to pick ourselves up by our own ideological boots and lift ourselves up to the same moral standard as exemplified by Jesus Christ during His tenure on Earth. If that were the case none of us would ever be able to find mercy and grace in the eyes of the Lord, for no human being will ever attain that exalted position while on this Earth.

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If that had indeed been possible Jesus would not have bothered to come down to this planet to die for our sins in the first place. He came to die for our sins exactly because we would not have been able to successfully buy into His teachings and live strictly according to it ... and *that* He had known and anticipated long before the Earth was made, and the Bible was conceived.

The primary purpose of the Law of Moses (God's 'Ten Commandments', the Torah etc.) and Christ's teachings was to hold up a moral mirror to our face and show us what we really morally looked like; to demonstrate to us, against the background of the exquisite moral perfection of God in Heaven as regards the interpersonal relationships and dynamics that reign in its Courts, how badly we compared next to it, and also next to Him, Jesus, the prototype of human perfection (the 'Last Adam') as God envisaged it, not with the aim of condemning us to Hell, but with the aim of showing us how badly we stood in need of a Saviour.

He simply had to coax us out of our sick, fat, and happy self-righteousness into the safety of the Everlasting Arms of God's forgiveness, reconciliation and justification operating through the sacrifice and blood of Jesus Christ, the Paschal Lamb of Heaven. By faith in Christ we become Justified ... *just-if-I-had* never sinned. 'Popes' and earthly 'priests' cannot grant absolution, only God the Father through Jesus Christ can. The apostle Paul writes:

> *"So also it is written, The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. Howbeit that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; then that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is of heaven."*
>
> [1Corinthians15:45-47ASV].

Atheists who do not understand the divine plan of Salvation operating through the Gospel of Jesus Christ must first make a concerted effort to understand it (by reading the Bible, especially the Gospel of John and all the New Testament Epistles) while asking the Holy Spirit to provide the necessary revelation and understanding) before they endeavour to second-guess an Almighty God with whom they normally do not want anything to do.

Did Christ really Exist? Russell further asserts that, *"... it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all."*

I beg your pardon: There is more proof (documentary, archaeologically etc.) that Jesus Christ had lived than documentary or archaeological proof that Alexander the Great had ever lived, yet people have no problem believing the history books about Alexander's exploits.

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Nevertheless, after a thorough investigation into this very question and consulting some of the top scholars in the world on this subject, ex-atheist and professional journalist (and now devout Christian) (former atheist) Lee Strobel (Strobel: 259-271), concludes with an affirmative for each of the following critical questions:

- Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? (Yes!)
- Did the biographies of Jesus stand up to scrutiny? (Yes!)
- Were Jesus' biographies reliably reserved for us? (Yes!)
- Is there credible evidence for Jesus outside His biographies? (Yes!)
- Does archaeology confirm Jesus' biographies? (Yes!)
- Is the Jesus of history the same as the Jesus of Faith? (Yes!)
- Was Jesus really convinced that He was the Son of GOD? (Yes!)
- Was Jesus sane when He claimed to be the Son of GOD? (Yes!)
- Did Jesus fulfil the attributes of God? (Yes!)
- Did Jesus (and Jesus alone) match the identity of the Messiah? (Yes!)
- Was the death and resurrection of Jesus a real fact of history? (Yes!)
- Was Jesus' body really absent from His tomb? (Yes!)
- Was Jesus seen after His death on the cross? (Yes!)
- Are there any supporting facts that point to the resurrection of Jesus? (Yes!)
- Has the collection of evidence (about the resurrection of Jesus) really been thorough? (Yes!)

New Testament Eyewitness Testimonies. According to Jewish custom two or three eyewitnesses were usually considered sufficient testimonial-evidence when cases were brought before Courts of Law.

In the case of the Resurrection, here follows a list of the possible number of eyewitnesses that had seen the resurrected Christ (Lee Strobel: *The Case For Christ)*:

- Mark 16:9: Mary Magdalene [Jerusalem].
- Matthew 28:9: 'Other women' [Jerusalem].
- 1 Corinthians 15:5: Peter [Jerusalem].
- Luke 24:15-31: Two disciples [Emmaus].
- John 20:19,24: Ten apostles, Thomas absent [Jerusalem].
- John 20:26-28: Eleven apostles, Thomas present [Jerusalem].
- John 21:1-24: Seven disciples fishing [Sea of Galilee].
- John 21:15-17: Jesus' charge to Peter [Sea of Galilee].
- Matthew 28:16,17 & 1 Corinthians 15:5: Eleven apostles/twelve [Mountain in Galilee]
- 1 Corinthians 15:7: James [Place unknown]
- 1 Corinthians 15:6: Five-hundred brothers [Place unknown]
- Acts 1:2-9: Eleven apostles [Bethany].
- Acts 9:1-5 & 1 Corinthians 15:8: Saul (Paul) [Road to Damascus].

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSSIBLE EYEWITNESSES:
[At least] 550 people.

New Testament Attestation from Archaeology. Comprises a wealth of manuscripts and fragments, i.e.:

- Greek (New Testament): *More than 5000*
- Greek ('The Jewish War' (Flavius Josephus) Greek Manuscripts): 9
- 'The Jewish War' by Flavius Josephus (Latin Translation): 1
- 'The Jewish War' by Flavius Josephus (Russian Materials): Unquantified Assortment
- Greek New Testament (Papyrus): 39 Fragments
- Greek New Testament (Ancient Parchments, All Capital Greek Letters): 306

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- Greek New Testament Manuscripts ('Minuscule'): 2856
- Greek New Testament Manuscripts (Legionaries): 2403
- Latin Vulgate Manuscripts: 8000-10 000
- Ethiopic, Slavic & Armenian Manuscripts: 8000

F.F. Bruce, Eminent Professor at the University of Manchester (Lee Strobel: *The Case For Christ)* writes:

"There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament."

On the Second Coming. Russell continues to complain about the alleged inconsistency of Christ's promise where He had said, *"Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of Man be come."* Then He says: *"There are some standing here which shall not taste death till the Son of Man comes into His kingdom".* Then Russell wants to argue that Christ had lied, for most of those people had already died long ago and yet Christ has not come yet. Let's analyse (in context) what Christ had said.

First bear in mind that, in spite of Jesus Christ's exemplary life, His many miracles (too many to have been recorded in the Bible) and also His extraordinary claim to be the long-awaited Messiah, He still knew that He probably still lacked some credibility as the Son of God in the minds of some of His followers. Something had to be done to finally dispel all doubts among His friends and embed His claim as the Son of God and Messiah in the annals of history forever. Somebody from Heaven simply had to come and confirm His credentials as God's Ambassador to mankind in front of dependable eyewitnesses, to settle the matter once and for all. With all this in mind, He said:

"But I tell you of a truth, There are some of them that stand here, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

[Luke 9:27ASV]

Then, only eight days later, Jesus made good on His promise:

"And it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, that he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray.

And as he was praying, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became white and dazzling.

> *And behold, there talked with him two men, who were Moses and Elijah;*
> *who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*
> *Now Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.*
> *And it came to pass, as they were parting from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah: not knowing what he said.*
> *And while he said these things, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.*
> *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my chosen: hear ye him.*
> *And when the voice came, Jesus was found alone. And they held their peace, and told no man in those days any of the things which they had seen."*
>
> [Luke 9:28-36ASV].

The *Transfiguration*, not the *Second Coming*. In other words, what Jesus were referring to in the beginning was His anticipation of this event where Moses and Elijah, emissaries from Heaven (diplomats) would appear to Him and, with at least three eyewitnesses looking on, officially confirm His credentials as the Son of God.

Jesus had never meant for the Second Coming to take place before the disciples would die, but that they would see (observe) a spectacular demonstration of the Kingdom of God as eventually manifested in this scene with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Jesus, by His own admission, did not know the date of the Second Coming, and if He, here in Luke 9:27, had alluded to the Second Coming proper, it would have contradicted His so-called ignorance about the date of the Second Coming. On the contrary, Jesus did not lie ... His disciples *did observe* ('see') the Kingdom of God as so gloriously demonstrated that day on the Mount of Transfiguration. Outside of His crucifixion at Calvary and His resurrection this transfiguration event must have been the pinnacle of His entire career and ministry.

Russell's error is that he, like so many others before and after him, equates the promise of Luke 9:27 with the promise of the Second Coming, an untenable interpretation taking into consideration Jesus' self-admitted

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ignorance *("Only my Father in Heaven knows when it will be!")* about the true date of the Second Coming.
(My paraphrasing).

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11. **BERTRAND RUSSELL: SECTION 11: THE MORAL PROBLEM**

[Bertrand Russell speaks*]: "Then you come to moral questions. There is one very serious defect to my mind in Christ's moral character, and that is that He believed in hell. I do not myself feel that any person that is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment. Christ certainly as depicted in the Gospels did believe in everlasting punishment, and one does find repeatedly a vindictive fury against those people who would not listen to His preaching -- an attitude which is not uncommon with preachers, but which does somewhat detract from superlative excellence. You do not, for instance, find that attitude in Socrates. You find him quite bland and urbane toward the people who would not listen to him; and it is, to my mind, far more worthy of a sage to take that line than to take the line of indignation. You probably all remember the sorts of things that Socrates was saying when he was dying, and the sort of things that he generally did say to people who did not agree with him.*

"You will find that in the Gospels Christ said: 'Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell.' That was said to people who did not like His preaching. It is not really to my mind quite the best tone, and there are a great many of these things about hell. There is, of course, the familiar text about the sin against the Holy Ghost: 'Whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven him neither in this world nor in the world to come.' That text has caused an unspeakable amount of misery in the world, for all sorts of people have imagined that they have committed the sin against the Holy Ghost, and thought that it would not be forgiven them either in this world or in the world to come. I really do not think that a person with a proper degree of kindliness in his nature would have put fears and terrors of this sort into the world.

"Then Christ says, 'The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth'; and He goes on about the wailing and gnashing of teeth. It comes in one verse after another, and it is quite manifest to the reader that there is a certain pleasure in contemplating wailing and gnashing of teeth, or else it would not occur so often. Then you all, of course, remember about the sheep and the goats; how at the second coming He is going to divide the sheep from the goats, and He is going to say to the goats: 'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire.' He continues: 'And these shall go away into everlasting fire.' Then He says again, 'If thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.' He repeats that again and again also. I must say that I think all this doctrine, that hell-fire is a punishment for sin, is a doctrine of cruelty. It is a doctrine that put cruelty into the world, and gave the world generations of cruel torture; and the Christ of the Gospels, if you could take Him as his chroniclers represent Him, would certainly have to be considered partly responsible for that.

"There are other things of less importance. There is the instance of the Gadarene swine, where it certainly was not very kind to the pigs to put the devils into them and make them rush down the hill into the sea. You must remember that He was omnipotent, and He could have made the devils simply go away; but He chose to

send them into the pigs. Then there is the curious story of the fig-tree, which always rather puzzled me. You remember what happened about the fig-tree. 'He was hungry; and seeing a fig-tree afar off having leaves, He came if haply He might find anything thereon; and when he came to it He found nothing but leaves, for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it: 'No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever'.... and Peter.... saith unto Him: 'Master, behold the fig-tree which thou cursedst is withered away.' This is a very curious story, because it was not the right time of year for figs, and you really could not blame the tree. I cannot myself feel that either in the matter of wisdom or in the matter of virtue Christ stands quite as high as some other people known to History. I think I should put Buddha and Socrates above Him in those respects." (Russell: 11).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 11: THE MORAL PROBLEM

Is God a Cruel Tyrant? Russell complains about God deriving a *'certain pleasure in contemplating wailing and gnashing of teeth, or else it would not occur so often.'*

This mantra (God's so-called sadistic streak with His so-called 'doctrine of cruelty') runs through most atheists' arguments almost like a monotonous Tibetan chant to the spinning of a Tibetan prayer-wheel. On the contrary ... it is exactly because God, our Heavenly Father, is of a kind, loving and 'humane' disposition that He will make sure that certain dregs of society be either restrained or punished, or both. I reiterate, in God's economy the welfare and comfort of the innocent victims of tyranny, brutality and crime take precedence over the welfare and comfort of the perpetrators of such tyranny, crime and brutality. It is not by coincidence that the Bible refers to those who hate God and reject His wise counsel as the 'ungodly' and the 'wicked'. How any atheist can, by choice, purport to live with this kind of epithet boggles the mind; who wants to be known as 'the ungodly' and/or 'the wicked'?

Are the Atheists running away from their own Salvation? God has literally, at Calvary, bent over backwards to make sure than no member of the human race born on this planet will ever have to perish, go lost or be damned to Hell ... but this unconditional blanket amnesty (known as God's GRACE) must be personally accepted and appropriated by the individual (known as 'repentance').

Why on Earth people like Russell run away from their own salvation and the perfect solution to their problem (just like the terrified little animal caught in the cruel hunter's trap that tries to escape the kind attention of its friendly rescuer) boggles the mind. In Russell's case the trap is *atheism* (and believe me, it must hurt a lot) and the rescuer is Jesus Christ. Contrary to

what the atheists believe and teach, the Bible is very clear about the fact that God does not enjoy the suffering of His subjects:

> *"For though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses. For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men."*
>
> [Lamentations3:32-33ASV].

Charles Finney writes:

> *"If one is a sinner and knows it, he is prepared to come to Jesus. It will do him no good to go about getting counterfeit prescriptions or mixing up remedies of his own, when God has already provided the great Remedy.*
>
> *Yet many people have a constant tendency toward this very thing – toward relying on a variety of counterfeit spiritual remedies. See how the sinner toils and agonizes! He would circle heaven and earth to work out his own salvation, in his own way, to his own credit, by his own works. See how he worries himself in the multitude of his own plans! Before he arrives at simple faith, he finds himself in the deep mire of despair.*
>
> *'Alas,' he cries, '"there can be no hope for me! Oh, my soul is lost!'"*
>
> (Finney: 33).

God Warns us against Hell because He is kind and loves us, not because He is unkind and hates us. I repeat what I had said earlier: Nobody has ever warned us more against Hell than Christ Himself had done ... if His motive or hidden agenda had been to make us cannon fodder for the enemy and to send us to Hell, why did He take so much trouble to warn us beforehand? Wouldn't it have been much easier for Him to let us plod blissfully ahead directly toward Hell in complete ignorance? But the error of the atheists is there inability to distinguish between an *unkind threat* and a *kind warning*.

The Difference between a Threat and a Warning. God (Jesus) did not *threaten* us *with Hell* (as the atheists would have it); He has *warned us against* Hell, and that was the kindest and most 'humane' thing He under the circumstances to free moral agents created in the image of God could do.

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Russell consistently overlooks the fact that humans are created *free moral agents* with the gift of *free choice* ... a free choice between good and evil; light and darkness; love and hate; belief and unbelief; kindness and brutality.

Dear reader, don't you think that those inclined to evil, darkness, hate, malignant unbelief, and brutality with the explicit aim to consistently and unrepentantly repeatedly hurt, abuse and exploit their fellow human beings, eventually ought to be somehow restrained and/or punished? Having said that, an unconditional reprieve may nevertheless still quite be possible, provided we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. If this were not the ultimate evidence of God's love and kindness toward us as Hell-deserving rascals, I do not know what will ever be. Jesus said:

> *"If I told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things?*
> *And no one hath ascended into heaven, but he that descended out of heaven, even the Son of man, who is in heaven.*
> *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up;*
> *that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life.*
> *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
> *For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him."*
>
> [John 3:12-17KJV].

The Ego of the atheist. The problem with the atheist is that that inflated ego of his that will bow to no one, not even to God. In terms of Jesus' clear invitation and promise mentioned above, no atheist have to go Hell, but they sometimes appear to create the impression that they *want* to go there at all costs simply to be able to say, *"I told you so; now see how cruel your God is ... just look what He made me do!"*

The Case of the Gadarene Swine. Next, Russell complains about the case of the Gadarene swine. Considering that those swine were made by God anyway and which belonged to Him (just like all other animals in the final analysis also belong to the Creator), do you not think that He is free to do with His subjects as He pleases? And, if those swine really had suffered some profound moral injustice, don't you think God, the Ultimate Champion of Restitution, Retribution and Justice, would have been able to make it up to them later? Maybe they were, in God's grand scheme of things, created with this event and object lesson in mind (?).

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Besides, what about all the other animals that are slaughtered on a daily basis for people to eat or as sacrifices in the religions of the world? Don't they matter too? Why is he so concerned only about those swine?

How many animals and people did not unnecessarily die in for instance in the *Book of Job* in natural disasters that were also made possible by God's empowering ('capacitating') of Satan, so to speak ... what then about them? What about all the animals that were slaughtered in terms of Old Testament Jewish sacrifices and are still slaughtered in the abattoirs of the world daily?

The Case of the Fig Tree. Ditto the case of the fig tree. With this incident Jesus simply wanted to demonstrate to His disciples (i) first, the power of the spoken word spoken in *faith* over *circumstances and matter*; (ii) secondly, the power of the spoken word spoken in *faith in God*; and (iii) thirdly, especially the power of the spoken word *spoken by the Son of God* over circumstances and matter. Are humans not infinitely more worth than a fig tree? Jesus was establishing His credentials as God in the flesh with power over the forces of nature ... the fact that it was not the season for figs is of no consequence. What does Russell really want ... for Jesus to apologise to the fig tree for hurting its feelings? Has Russell actually gone 'WOKE'?

Buddha & Socrates. Russell then concludes that he will probably put Buddha and Socrates above Jesus Christ. The first problem with this idea is that the (decayed) corpses of Buddha and Socrates are still rotting in their graves. But, then again Russell unbelievingly again fails to learn from his hero Socrates, for Socrates was no atheist and he himself already long ago has confirmed his belief in some kind of Hereafter by a special hint to his admiring pupils: When his pupils asked him whether they, when he dies one day, might have the honour of burying him, he replied: *"Yes you may, but you will have to catch me first!"* Strange how Russell overlooked this, isn't it?

And, isn't it strange how people who do not *want* to be Christians, and who do not *want* to *mind* God and who do not *want* to love Jesus, always have a problem with either (i) the poor, innocent Gadarene swine; or with (ii) the innocent little fig tree; and eventually also with (iii) God's so-called cruel and sadistic streak?

If there really were no such things as *morality* and *right (good)* and *wrong (evil)* in the Universe (as Russell postulates) how *then did Russell know* that it was 'wrong' (evil) for Jesus to allow the swine to fall from the cliff into the sea, or for Jesus to 'hurt the feelings' of the fig tree, or for God to be cruel and sadistic? Russell's ideological slip was showing badly here.

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12. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 12: THE EMOTIONAL FACTOR

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"As I said before, I do not think that the real reason that people accept religion has anything to do with argumentation. They accept religion on emotional grounds. One is often told that it is a very wrong thing to attack religion, because religion makes men virtuous. So I am told; I have not noticed it. You know, of course, the parody of that argument in Samuel Butler's book, Erewhon Revisited. You will remember that in Erewhon there is a certain Higgs who arrives in a remote country, and after spending some time there he escapes from that country in a balloon.*

"Twenty years later he comes back to that country and finds a new religion in which he is worshipped under the name of the 'Sun Child'; and it is said that he ascended into heaven. He finds that the feast of the Ascension is about to be celebrated, and he hears Professors Hanky and Panky say to each other that they never set eyes on the man Higgs, and they hope they never will; but they are the High Priests of the religion of the Sun Child. He is very indignant, and he comes up to them, and he says: 'I am going to expose all this humbug and tell the people of Erewhon that it was only I, the man Higgs, and I went up in a balloon.' He was told, 'You must not do that, because all the morals of this country are bound round this myth, and if they once know that you did not ascend into heaven they will all become wicked'; and so he is persuaded of that and he goes quietly away.

"That is the idea -- that we should all be wicked if we did not hold to the Christian religion. It seems to me that the people who have held to it have been for the most part extremely wicked. You find this curious fact, that the more intense has been the religion of any period and the more profound has been the dogmatic belief, the greater has been the cruelty and the worse has been the state of affairs. In the so-called Ages of faith, when men really did believe the Christian religion in all its completeness, there was the Inquisition, with all its tortures; there were millions of unfortunate women burned as witches; and there was every kind of cruelty practiced upon all sorts of people in the name of religion.

"You find as you look around the world that every single bit of progress of humane feeling, every improvement in the criminal law, every step toward the diminution of war, every step toward better treatment of the colored races, or ever mitigation of slavery, every moral progress that there has been in the world, has been consistently opposed by the organized churches of the world. I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world." (Russell: 12).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 12: THE EMOTIONAL FACTOR

Lincoln & Wilberforce. Russell objects to slavery among Christian societies, but has forgotten that, in modern times, slavery was first addressed (*en masse*) by people like Abraham Lincoln and William Wilberforce and

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that it was mostly Christians who were behind the many reforms we have seen over the years.

For instance, orphanages and old age homes are, fundamentally, Christian concepts. Indigenous Africans in Africa will tell you that, before the colonials brought Christianity to Africa, orphans used to be adopted and looked after by members of the extended family (which was not necessarily wrong, but hopelessly too inadequate a long-term solution). In some communities in Africa the old and the senile, i.e., those who had overstayed their shelf-life, reportedly were sometimes (like mouldy, stale groceries) rejected, and abandoned in the jungle to fend for themselves, in other words, left for the lions and other predators to savage, kill, and eat.

Booth, Mueller & Spurgeon. Who has founded the Salvation Army? (General William Booth, a Christian). Who worked so indefatigably amongst the orphans and the poor of London? (George Mueller and Charles Spurgeon). The work of the late Mother Theresa, a Christian, of India is a more recent case in point.

The Inquisition. With Russell's references to the Roman, Spanish, and other Inquisitions 'with its tortures', I must remind Russell in all honesty and academic admonishment that it was not Christians who were *doing the torturing*; the Christians (in this case those who adhered to the new movement of Protestantism) were in fact the *ones being tortured*. Those who did the torturing could hardly have been called 'Christian'; a more apt description of them should perhaps have been *'deluded, overzealous, and misguided, sadistic Roman Catholic* inquisitors'). Don't lose perspective, it is all about perspective.

Hopefully, however, the excesses dating from the days of the Inquisition will not detract from the humane work so many Roman Catholic ecclesiastics and lay members have done over the centuries and may still be involved in today. Let us give credit where it is due.

13. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 13: HOW THE CHURCHES HAVE RETARDED THE PROGRESS

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"You may think that I am going too far when I say that that is still so, I do not think that I am. Take one fact. You will bear with me if I mention it. It is not a pleasant fact, but the churches compel one to mention facts that are not pleasant. Supposing that in this world that we live in today an inexperienced girl is married to a syphilitic man, in that case the Catholic Church says, "This is an indissoluble sacrament. You must stay together for life," and no steps of any sort must be taken by that woman to prevent herself from giving birth to syphilitic children. This is what the Catholic Church says. I say that that is fiendish cruelty, and nobody whose natural sympathies have not been warped by dogma, or whose moral nature was not absolutely dead to all sense of suffering, could maintain that it is right and proper that that state of things should continue.*

That is only an example. There are a great many ways in which at the present moment the church, by its insistence upon what it chooses to call morality, inflicts upon all sorts of people undeserved and unnecessary suffering. And of course, as we know, it is in its major part an opponent still of progress and improvement in all the ways that diminish suffering in the world, because it has chosen to label as morality a certain narrow set of rules of conduct which have nothing to do with human happiness; and when you say that this or that ought to be done because it would make for human happiness, they think that has nothing to do with the matter at all. 'What has human happiness to do with morals? The object of morals is not to make people happy.'" (Russell: 13).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 13: HOW THE CHURCHES HAVE RETARDED THE PROGRESS

Russell's fixation with the Roman Catholic Church. Russell's fixation on the Catholic Church's doctrine probably reveals some unresolved private issues he may have had with that movement. I cannot vouch for what the Roman Catholic Church teaches and believes (for instance his objection to their rejection of the right to divorce etc.); I can only say that in the global Christian Church (the *Ecclesia*) outside of the Roman Catholic doctrinal ambit most Christians will probably tell you (and most Evangelical Churches will probably make ample provision for that) that, although the sacrament of marriage is sacrosanct, there sometimes are such things as 'nuptial deal-breakers' to be considered ... so in this case I won't judge Russell too harshly.

For instance, things like undisclosed bankruptcy, insanity, gambling-addiction or –debts, alcoholism, substance-abuse, women- and child-abuse; gangsterism, an undisclosed criminal record, white-collar and other crimes, earlier war-crimes, bigamy, sexually-transmitted-disease, racketeering, people-trafficking, prostitution and even undisclosed terminal illness etc. could be considered deal-breakers, which could (but does not necessarily always have to) lead to the annulment of a marriage vow or contract.

It all depends on the degree of transparency and remorse from the guilty party and the capacity of the other partner to forgive and forget, or to cope with the situation, especially where the guilty party had made a concerted effort to turn the lifestyle productively around. Rehabilitation, reconciliation, and forgiveness have never been illegal.

Not everybody, however, has the capacity to deal with the gruelling adversity and frustration involved with for instance the scourge of advanced alcoholism, unrepentant criminal activity or 'career-infidelity'. I am well acquainted with the scourge of alcoholism in my family and I still maintain that it is probably better for a child to grow up an orphan than to grow up in the atmosphere and hell of the unrelenting chemical-dependence suffered by an 'unrepentant' alcoholic and his family.

A kind God will punish or restrain exactly because He is kind. Russell's gripe is thus unfounded because it applies only to the Roman Catholic Church ... it does not necessarily reflect the position of Christianity as a whole. I get the impression that the only religious exposure he had ever was limited myopically to the tenets and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, completely ignoring the impact and impetus of the *Evangelical Christianity* movement outside of that ambit and it may benefit readers interested in that movement to read the former Catholic Lorraine Boettner's book, *Roman Catholicism* for more information.

Russell's position on the concept of morals and morality is disconcerting, to say the least. We live in a moral Universe, and His chastisement of His children, or His divine retribution on those who are not, is God's divine prerogative where it has become clear that people do not care to mind God's moral sentiments or preferences in their relationship with Him. This Universe (Creation) is God's property, and we had better find out what He wants and do as He says ... period.

If God did not chastise His children or punish or at least restrain whom the Bible refers to as the 'ungodly', then He probably would have to go back and apologise to Korah and his sons, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Ananias and Sapphira and Herod etc. for having punished them so 'inhumanely', so 'cruelly' and so 'unfairly'.

Like any other normal human being Russell too would, in case of a burglary in his house, scream blue murder (metaphorically speaking) and

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head to the nearest police station to report the theft and obtain a case number for insurance purposes. Suddenly the penny will drop and he will miraculously know the difference between good and evil after all.

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14. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 14: FEAR, THE FOUNDATION OF RELIGION

[Bertrand Russell speaks]: *"Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly, as I have said, the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing -- fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand-in-hand. It is because fear is at the basis of those two things. In this world we can now begin a little to understand things, and a little to master them by the help of science, which has forced its way step by step against the Christian religion, against the churches, and against the opposition of all the old precepts.*

"Science can help us to get over this craven fear in which mankind has lived for so many generations. Science can teach us, and I think our own hearts can teach us, no longer to look around for imaginary supports, no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make this world a fit place to live in, instead of the sort of place that the churches in all these centuries have made it." (Russell: 14).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 14: THE FOUNDATION OF FEAR

Russell tries to make an important thing of *science*, yet he forgets:

- that, in the past, science has often been in serious error. For instance, there used to be a time when scientists thought that the sun was a disk about 30 cm. in diameter (Ptolemy). There was a time when scientists thought that malaria was caused by certain malaria-causing toxins/gasses emanating from marsh-gasses in jungles. It was only recently that scientists discovered that it was caused by the (female) *Anopheles* mosquito living in those marshes. Science sometimes can be a good, useful servant, but also a bad and brutal master.

- that science has the nasty habit of revising itself every now and then, whereas the Bible has stood the test of time for literally centuries, and has survived all the abuse the sceptics and the atheists could throw at it. In hundred years from now, many of today's 'scientific facts' (the current 'truth') will have been adapted and replaced by a new set of 'scientific facts' (and changed into the latest 'truth'). In the meantime, God's unchanging Eternal truth (the Bible) is marching on and will still keep rolling merrily along. Oswald Chambers writes:

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> *"If the Bible agreed with modern science, in about fifty years both would be out of date. All scientific findings have at one time been modern."*
>
> (McCasland: 245).

- God has invented science anyway. Ironically, the atheist-evolutionists act as if they had invented science and are the only legitimate curators and handlers worthy of its august secrets.

No matter how science evolves or develops and how smart the technology gets ... God, the Author of all science, technology, and wisdom, is bigger than any science and bigger than any technology. In fact, the Bible clearly states that the *fear of the Lord* (and not the blind worship of science) is the beginning of wisdom:

> *"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding."*
>
> (Job28:28ASV).

The reason crime is on the increase all over the world is the complete lack of fear for God in society ... people commit violent crime, corruption, fraud etc. with an impunity unparalleled in human history when we consider the elevated levels of education and sophistication reigning in most urbanised communities today.

It would appear as if the increase in scientific knowledge and sophistication in technology are only more and more contributing to the scientific proficiency and technological sophistication with which crimes are being committed lately. All truth runs parallel; the criminals (the 'ungodly' and the 'wicked') are developing alongside the decent and the upright, like obnoxious weeds sharing the garden with the charming flowers.

I think someone has said this before: When we educate a man in his mind and not in his morals the result in the end will probably be, at best, a civilised barbarian, or, at worst, an educated savage. During WWII Professor Victor Klemperer, in his country of (Nazi) Germany, in his diary, made this interesting observation of the leaders of the 'Third Reich':

> *"And with every day that passes I am again and ever more strongly disturbed by the trite antithesis: such tremendous things are being created, radio, aeroplane, sound film, and the most insane stupidity, primitiveness and bestiality cannot be eradicated – all invention results in murder and war."*
>
> (Klemperer: 304).

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Bear in mind that the same nation that had given us Röntgen-*rays* and the beautiful Strauss-waltzes, is the same nation that produced a Hitler and the Holocaust. The same regime that had produced the first heart-transplant, is the same nation that produced 'apartheid' (and still produces cannibals in some rural pockets of the land). We are all tainted by the same universal pathology of sin; we are all (the atheists included) SIN-prone, no matter what the atheist-evolutionists, agnostics, Neo-Nazis, fascists, philosophers, scientologists, psychologists, ACLU postmodernists and secular humanists say.

15. **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

SECTION 15: WHAT WE MUST DO

[Bertrand Russell speaks*]: "We want to stand upon our own feet and look fair and square at the world -- its good facts, its bad facts, its beauties, and its ugliness; see the world as it is and be not afraid of it. Conquer the world by intelligence and not merely by being slavishly subdued by the terror that comes from it. The whole conception of a God is a conception derived from the ancient oriental despotisms. It is a conception quite unworthy of free men.*

"When you hear people in church debasing themselves and saying that they are miserable sinners, and all the rest of it, it seems contemptible and not worthy of self-respecting human beings. We ought to stand up and look the world frankly in the face. We ought to make the best we can of the world, and if it is not so good as we wish, after all it will still be better than what these others have made of it in all these ages. A good world needs knowledge, kindliness, and courage; it does not need a regretful hankering after the past or a fettering of the free intelligence by the words uttered long ago by ignorant men. It needs a fearless outlook and a free intelligence. It needs hope for the future, not looking back all the time toward a past that is dead, which we trust will be far surpassed by the future that our intelligence can create." (Russell: 15).

REBUTTAL: SECTION 15: WHAT WE MUST DO

What are 'free men'? I am not sure exactly how Russell would define his concept of 'free men' but the Bible teaches us that it is Truth that sets us free. It is only by accepting Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour and Reconciliation (with God), Justification (by God) and the adoption of Christ's Robe of Righteousness that we as ordinary men and women can ever be free.

> *"For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believeth."*
>
> (Romans 10:3-4 ASV).

Do Christians debase themselves when they repent as Sinners? Russell says that we as Christians debase ourselves when we refer to ourselves as sinners. That statement makes Russell (ideologically) just another of the many pseudo-intellectual 'Cleopatra's' of this world ... *Queens of Denial.*

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In the first place it won't help for Russell to deny that that there is something very wrong with this world, that humans in their daily walk of life encounter many problems in this world, and that there are so many pathologies, including crime, fraud and corruption, in the make-up of so many people and nations in this world that the phenomenon of Sin as the basic diagnosis and root-cause is just about the only true (Universal) common denominator of it all.

Furthermore, we cannot debase ourselves any more than Adam had already done in Eden many millenniums ago. If Sin were not a socio-cultural reality, where does all the crime in society come from? Where do all the (psychological) human pathologies come from? Where do all the psychopaths, serial murders and political despots come from? Why does the United States, as I write, alone have over one-hundred thousand missing children in its human-trafficking industry? Why do child porn-rings and drug-trafficking syndicates flourish all over the world?

With the Humility of a Child. I've said before that there is huge reward in humility, and to humbly repent from our sins and accept God, not only as our Creator, but also our forgiving Heavenly Saviour and Heavenly Father has enormous Eternal reward.

I do not care how brilliant Russell is, God is infinitely more brilliant, and contrary to what the atheist may think, it is not a scandal or a shame to bow before God at all. The problem lies with the enormous ego of the atheist, for the atheist bows to no one, not even to God. It is only when the atheist (and everybody else for that matter) realises that the way UP (to God) is DOWN (on our knees) with the attitude of a little child, he or she will discover the answers to the many questions they are so struggling with. Jesus has said:

> *"In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*
> *And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them,*
> *and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
> *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
> *And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me:*
> *But whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great*

> *millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the sea.*
> *Woe unto the world because of occasions of stumbling! for it must needs be that the occasions come; but woe to that man through whom the occasion cometh!*
> (Matthew18:1-7KJV).

Are you a stumbling block? At this juncture it may be a good idea to issue a stern warning to the atheists to desist from the habit of putting all kinds of stumbling blocks in the way of those who, like a little child, want to put their trust in the kind and reliable hands of Jesus of Nazareth, Saviour of the world and Master of the Universe. Woe unto the world because of occasions of stumbling, for, although those occasions will obviously come, woe to that man through whom the occasion comes.

Be that as it may, Evangelical Christians do not really refer to themselves as 'sinners', but as 'sinners saved by grace', whom the Apostle Paul, in his letters, refers to as 'saints'. Russell should have read the New Testament Epistles at least once before trying to comment on the Bible and Judeo-Christian teachings. Theologically speaking, the Roman Catholici Church does not have a monopoly on 'saints'.

How Atheism-Evolutionism self-destructs in Argument. The atheist-evolutionists do not believe in any *Intelligent Design* (whether in the beginning at the point of the 'creation' or 'inauguration' of the Universe, which they refer to as the 'Big Bang', or presently with the maintenance and management of the Universe) at all. Everything was supposed to have happened brainlessly by the random accident of magic 'Evolution' 13,73 billion years ago (the Universe) and 4,6 billion years ago (planet Earth).

Now notice this strange anomaly with the atheists when they start rationalizing about their theory: First they will vehemently deny any semblance of *intelligent design* at work in the Universe or the agency and possible inputs of an *Intelligent Designer* during (what they call) the 'Big Bang' or (what we call) the Creation of the Universe. Then, in complete breach of their 'Evolutionary Theory' and 'Evolution' policy and ethics, they go ahead and contradict themselves by using the very tools of *intelligent design* with which to defend their theory, i.e. that there is *no such thing as intelligent design*.

They are not ashamed to contradict themselves and will use all and diverse kinds of *intelligently designed arguments* to make their case, often supported by the employment and application of the various *tools of intelligent design* (to prove *zero intelligent design in the Universe*), for instance:

- Academic dissertations and theses, theories, postulates, hypotheses
- Lectures, symposiums, debates, books, magazine & journal-articles
- University and school curricula, museums, and museum-exhibits
- Field-trips and excavations, fossil-collections, and the categorization of fossils
- Research and research-grants, the Geiger-Müller Counter, sophisticated scientific rock-dating instruments, methods, and protocols
- Astrophysics, Archaeology, Geology/Geo-science, and Astronomy
- Medical Science, Chemistry, 'Gray's Anatomy', Biochemistry and Biology
- Molecular Biology, Palaeontology, Anthropology and Quantum Mechanics
- Physics, Geologic Column Wall-charts, Mathematics and Statistics
- Arithmetic. the spoken and written language, Technology and Computers
- Computer programming-language[s], Computer Sciences and Meteorology
- Information technology [IT], Cell-phones, iPads, Satellite communication-media, Electricity & Electronics
- Computer-graphics & other Software, Art, Radio-broadcasts, and TV-broadcasts
- Plate-tectonics, the Internet/Websites/Blogs etc.
- A working-knowledge of LATIN (to 'name' fossil-finds)
- Etc.

P.S. The million-dollar question: If there were no *intelligent design* or *Intelligent Designer* involved with the *manufacturing, maintenance, and management* ('3M') of the Universe, what are our children doing in school and at varsity? And why does it so often require people with master's degrees and doctorates to develop and publish (and/or understand, comprehend, and interpret) the atheist-evolutionists' theories and academic & scientific theses, dissertations, and publications?].

Is God Omnipotent or Not? For instance, if God could not make a (mature) Universe and the Earth in six days of 24 hours each (i.e. within 144 hours) why would He be able to do it in 13, 73 billion years? TIME does not *create* things ... time destroys things through the process of *entropy* in terms of the *Second Law Of Thermodynamics*. Longer time would probably only have complicated things even further. The only time when time improves things is when intelligent, innovative, and creative humans inject their mind, labour, and resources into things; it is called 'technology'.

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The question is: Is God *almighty (omnipotent)* or not? If God could have implemented a perfectly fine-tuned Universe fit for human habitation 13,73 billion years ago, how come He could not have created a perfectly fine-tuned Universe fit for human habitation six thousand years ago? Is anything too difficult for God? The problem with the atheist is his chronic and habitual underestimation of the Creator of the Universe. *"Yes, God is omnipotent enough to have created a Universe 13,73 billion years ago, but not omnipotent enough to have created a Universe only six-thousand years ago!"* What kind of omnipotence is that?

Are there, in God's economy, ever such things as *difficult challenges* for God? Are not all feats of natural as well as supernatural nature ('miracles') equally easy for God to perform? Do people in general really believe that God could not have made a perfectly fine-tuned human anatomy and living person fit for life on planet Earth in less than 24 hours (or in less than seven literal days)? How 'omnipotent' is God really?

Miracles: Jesus Skipped the Intermediary Steps. In the miracle of changing water into wine, Jesus must of necessity have skipped all the tedious intermediary stages in wine-making, i.e. farming and harvesting the grapes, waiting for rain, waiting for the grapes to mature, crushing the grapes, collecting the crushed grape-juice in huge vats, and performing all the usual chemical protocols normally associated with the art and science of wine-making. Why could He not have done the same with the Universe, planet Earth, the animal kingdom, Adam, and Eve? We live in miraculous bodies in a miraculous Universe, and nothing less than a miraculous God will do. Adam was created a full-grown man, not a helpless babe in arms, for otherwise how he could name all the animals on the sixth day?

The Universe was 'Very Good' on Day 6. For instance, Adam, after his creation, may well have 'appeared' *mature,* but technically/biologically was only 24 hours old at the end of Day 6 of Creation. Likewise the Universe will 'appear' old and ancient to us today because God created a mature Universe in Creation Week in the first place to begin with (He even exclaimed, *"It is very good!"* on Day 6) although the Universe was only one week old at the end of Day 7.

The scientists' rubber rulers of today will obviously measure an 'ancient' Universe, and, not knowing any better, would probably have declared Adam e.g. 'male, about 21 or 35 years old' which would have been wrong (Someone once satirically remarked that Adam must have been created in the 'afternoon', as it was just before 'Eve').

A Mature Or Immature Creation? Bear in mind that the sophisticated scientific instruments usually used to determine the age of the Universe (or

the Earth for that matter) today will not necessarily be able to pick up or detect the age-discrepancy of this strange, transfinite (metaphysical) anomaly involved in Creation Science when trying to determine the age of the Universe. Scientists are probably all using 'rubber rulers'. In fact, we get the impression that the atheist-evolutionists believe that all species on Earth (for instance) as well as the Universe itself were not first created *mature*, but as embryos, seeds, eggs, or something similarly and definitely immature, and had to mature over time ('evolve') for billions of years to attain the 'mature' status it is enjoying today.

Dr. David Attenborough's 'Wildebeest'. Has the reader ever come across a chicken-egg that had hatched itself and nurtured itself to maturity *without parents*? Even the renowned Dr. David Attenborough has conceded that the baby wildebeest (an antelope on the African plains) will not survive the first six months of its life without a mother, so how did the first baby *wildebeest* survive if Evolution were true? And if hyper-modern, 21st century *'Homo sapiens sapiens'* (I use the term satirically) could live with the blue whale today, a mammal about twice the size of the biggest dinosaur that had ever lived (and discovered in fossil-remnants so far) why could Adam and Eve not have lived with dinosaurs at the time?

Did God really use 'Evolution'? I get the impression that 'creative evolutionists' (what a gross anomaly!) or 'Old Earth Creationists' (whether implicitly or explicitly I don't know) are genuine evolutionists at heart and subscribe to the idea that God used 'Evolution' as a tool with which to first create and (today) maintain and manage the Universe, an approach that is totally foreign and unacceptable to the Young Earth Creationist's thinking.

This malicious effort to forge, just to be scientifically-correct, an unholy matrimony between the atheistic 'Evolutionary Theory' and the theistic 'Genesis Creation Account' of the Bible does not sit well with Young Earth Creationists, and we believe they are doing it only to assuage and pacify the (tithing) Evolution-minded members of their church or denomination.

Bear in mind that, at the moment of first Creation, God probably created TIME (three dimensions of past, present and future), SPACE (three dimensions); as well as MATTER (solids, liquids and gasses) in one go. So, if God also created TIME from nothing (*ex nihilo*) how could the Universe have evolved into existence over 4,6 billion years ... from what?

Human Knowledge is Imperfect & Incomplete. We nevertheless allow for the fact that some of us simply must be wrong; we are however allowed mistakes because human knowledge is so notoriously imperfect and incomplete. We are thus primarily concerned not with what possibly

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happened (because all things are anyway possible with God) but with what probably happened.

The Balance of Probabilities points to a Young Earth. Judging by the testimony of Jesus of Nazareth, the testimony of the Bible in general, the fact that the Universe is highly complex and looks and functions as if pre-designed and the planet-wide fossil-evidence (created by a planet-wide flood during Noah's era) we believe that the balance of probabilities points to a young Earth created about six thousand years ago.

Jesus of Nazareth always endorsed (and never denounced) the 'Genesis Creation Account', and by opting for Atheism-Evolutionism and/or Old Earth Creationism we may be in danger of reneging on the miracles of the Bible, especially on the miracles of Creation Week in the Genesis Creation Record.

It would appear as if the primary reason for our differences can be summed up as to whether we believe in the mystical metaphysical, transfinite phenomena referred to in the Bible as 'miracles' as authentic (*bona fide*) miracles, or as metaphorical phenomena only (erroneously) *interpreted culturally* as miracles by the people of the time. We sometimes tend to overlook the fact that texts in the Bible often can (and should) be interpreted both *literally* and *metaphorically* simultaneously ... it is not necessarily always a matter of an either/or (mutually exclusive) situation.

For instance, at first glance nobody can deny that the text that refers to *'God sitting as KING over the Earth'* should be *metaphorically* interpreted: It is a political statement and refers to *God's authority as Master of the Universe*. But likewise nobody can deny that it may (and should) be *literally* interpreted too ... after all, the 'Emerald-rainbow' adorned *Throne of God* has been described very visually in the *Book Of Revelations*, and He literally too sits as *'King over the Earth'*. The Heavens are His throne and the earth His footstool, says the Bible.

Why did God (through Jesus) not teach His disciples about 'Evolution'? After all, He told His disciples outright that He has not hidden anything from them because they were His friends:

> *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."*
>
> *(John15:15KJV).*

Nevertheless, has the reader ever heard an atheist-evolutionist call for Darwin, Paine, Voltaire, Russell, Gould, or Dawkins (or the ACLU: The

American Civil Liberties Union) on his deathbed in the last five minutes of his life?

Conclusion. I do not know what transpired between Russell and God during the last hours of his life. Hopefully, he recanted and changed his position on atheism ... on this planet we will probably never know. Many atheists do that but by then it is too late to write about it or recant in writing. I am not in the judging business, so I will leave things like Russell's eternal destiny for God to judge and decide. Who knows, we may still all walk like old friends one day on the beautifully manicured lawns of God's Kingdom and reminisce over any silly slight differences and misunderstandings we may have had here on Earth.

Perhaps Russell was asking the wrong question all the time: Instead of asking, *"Does God Exist?"* he should rather have asked, *"Does Russell Exist?"* What if the Universe we live in were only an interesting passing thought in God's mind? I ask satirically, and not as if I for one moment believe that our existence is just the symptoms of Brahma's dream as taught in the Hindu faith.

Bear in mind that God is the only true REALITY, not us. He has true ('ZOE') substance, probably are only a (BIOS) reflection (shadow) of His magnificent mind; derivatives and not originals, chips of the Old Block from whom we receive our breath and life-force. Atheists like Russell and Dawkins should stop making remarks and stop theorising and postulating as if they are the substance and God is only a shadow (reflection) of their mind. That is, in fact, the major difference between believers and unbelievers: *Christianity* believes that God created mankind, whereas *Atheism* believes that mankind created ('fabricated') God ... *Atheism* has elevated itself to the status of a god, a creator, exactly what Satan wanted in Eden when he confronted Eve with his sales rhetoric. Atheists always get things the other way around.

I certainly wish only the best of God's friendship, kindness and even Eternal Salvation for every atheist that may still be vacillating between belief and unbelief, and *that* I also honestly wish for everybody (as the saying goes) with justice for all and malice toward none.

Russell uses the word 'self-respecting human beings'. Well, that is exactly what Jesus came to do ... to deliver us from our sins and make us self-respecting persons again. There is no way that a person can look the world frankly in the eye with confidence and self-respect if he is still hiding the embarrassing moral, social and financial indiscretions, excesses and mistakes of his irresponsible youth and troubled past under some clandestine social or ideological carpet.

God is willing, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to wipe his slate clean and give him a fresh start in life (what we call the NEW BIRTH, or

SPIRITUAL REGENERATION). Jesus has come for the very purpose of delivering us from the scourge of the lack-of-self-respect ... a self-respect generated over decades of our personal unbelief, profanity, and sinful lifestyles. Jesus says:

> *"I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture.*
> *The thief cometh not, but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy: I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.*
> *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep.*
> *He that is a hireling, and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, beholdeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth, and the wolf snatcheth them, and scattereth them:*
> *he fleeth because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*
> *I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own, and mine own know me."*
>
> (John 10:9-14 ASV).

Russell insinuates that to believe in God is to live in the past. On the contrary, there is no ideology, science, philosophy, or religion in this world that promises so much hope for the future (indeed for Eternity) for destitute people than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the song goes, *"My Jesus ... nothing compares to the promise I have in You!"*

Do the math: what does atheism-evolutionism promise us ... the organic recycling of our bodies into nature, no resurrection, no Hereafter, and nothing to look forward to but cold, clinical death? And, by the way, even if atheism-evolutionism really were true, who in his right mind (but the atheist-evolutionists) would then anyway still have wanted to preach, teach, and spread such a sick and hopeless anti-gospel of sad news? What do they aim to achieve ... the mass-suicide of seven billion people?

It may thus be a clever idea for Bertrand Russell fans to slip away from the 'Bertrand Russell Society' and atheist-websites for a while and see how the guys over at, for instance, the 'C.S. Lewis Society' are doing.

Outside of the Bible, I have learnt more from the writings of Flavius Josephus, C.S. Lewis, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney, David Du Plessis, F.P. Möller, F.B. Meyer, C. Campbell-Morgan, Leonard Ravenhill, R.A. Torrey, Ern Baxter, John G. Lake, Andrew Murray, E.M. Bounds, John Maxwell, Oswald Chambers, Watchman Nee, Derek Prince, John R. Rice,

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Herbert Lockyear, Philip Yancey, A.W. Tozer, Jonathan Edwards, Ken Ham, Vance Ferrell, Henry Morris, Alvin Rogness, Hannes Labuschagne, Reinhard Gschwendt, G.K. Chesterton, Billy Graham, Michael Licona, Lee Strobel, Vance Ferrell, David Reagan and Rick Warren etc. than all the world's Bertrand Russells, Stephen Hawkings and Richard Dawkins' thrown together, and then I haven't even begun to scratch the surface of theologians like Karl Barth etc.

The million-rouble question: If there really were no such a thing as *Intelligent Design* involved in the creation or manufacture of this world and of people, plants, and animals (as the atheist-evolutionists would have it) then what are our children doing in school, and our students at varsity? And why does 'Mother Evolution', who had gotten along well enough for 'billions and billions of years', now suddenly need the intellectual chambermaids of atheists, museums and museum-curators, evolutionists, palaeontologists, books, magazines, universities, seminars, symposiums, speeches, debates, encyclopaedias, textbooks and wall-charts to defend its honour and promote its cause ... why couldn't 'Mother Evolution' (as in the 'pre-historic' past) have done it all by herself? I trust that the reader, by now, have seen the absurdity of a worldview and an ideology (a religious cult really) that asserts that the first man had made himself millions of years ago and then went on, over millenniums, to 'evolve' into just everybody else too, including his mother-in-law and his wife.

On the one hand, why on Earth would brainless, dumb, stupid, and random 'Evolution' devoid of any intelligence create a creature that craves and enjoys learning, education, knowledge, technology, art, music, science, and culture? (This must surely be the cruellest joke by 'Evolution' played on itself in the evolutionists' Universe!).

On the other hand, why would brainless and random 'Evolution' create a creature that sins and commits moral indiscretions, or commits brutal and heinous crimes? Where did things go wrong with the 'Evolution' process? 'Evolution' was supposed to have occurred 'progressively'... but something must have gone seriously wrong, for apes and monkeys (primates) do not hijack cars, steal cell-phones, run pyramid schemes, or embezzle funds (still man's old problem of sin dating from Eden). C.S. Lewis writes:

> *"Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end; submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only*

> *hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."*
>
> (Lewis: 189).

In the final analysis, the major reason why atheists reject (the concept of) God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, has been summed up by Jesus Christ Himself:

> "The lamp of thy body is thine eye: when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.
>
> (Luke11:34KJV).
>
> He that believeth on him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God.
>
> And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil.
>
> For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved.
>
> But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God.
>
> (John 3:18-21KJV).

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16. THE MANY IRONIES OF ATHEISM

1. **IRONY #001. CAUSE & EFFECT**. The atheists charge creationists with the habit of always insisting on invoking the argument of 'cause' (and 'effect') in their debates with atheists; then, paradoxically, the atheists themselves go ahead and invoke 'cause' (and 'effect' by saying that *"Evolution caused the world",* or *"the Big Bang caused Evolution",* or that *"Evolution caused the Big Bang"* ... or that "'beneficial mutations', 'adaptation', 'speciation', 'natural selection', 'punctuated equilibrium', 'gene flow' or 'genetic drift' caused the species to evolve and proliferate *"over millions and millions of years"* (so reminiscent of the Childrens' fairy tale that begins with, *"Long, long ago and far away ...").*

2. **IRONY #002. ORIGINAL CREATION.** Atheists insist that they do not believe in the God (YHWH, Jehovah) of Moses and the Ten Commandments and/or Jesus Christ of the New Testament or any so-called miraculous 'Creator God' of the Bible; then, they go ahead and insist that the blind, random forces of 'Evolution' miraculously called ('created') the world into existence out of nothing by sheer coincidence and total accident without any premeditated design or grand cosmic purpose in mind whatsoever. No wonder the late (admittedly renowned) physicist-atheist Stephen Hawking's final book was (guess what) *'The Theory of Nothing'.*

3. **IRONY #003. THE VIRGIN BIRTH.** Atheists reject the idea of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ; then, they go ahead and insist on the *'virgin birth of the Universe'* out of nothing else but "*the blind, accidental and random forces of Evolution".*

4. **IRONY #004. SCIENCE THE 'ULTIMATE SOLUTION'.** Atheists insist that 'science' ('scientism'*) will eventually prove the ultimate ('silver bullet') panacea to all of mankind's problems and the answer to all of society's challenges; then, when debating the issue, not a single scientist in the world is even remotely capable of lucidly, coherently explaining to the world:

- Why there is something instead of nothing.

- Who or what we really are.

- Where we come from.

- Why we are here.

- Where we (i.e., the members of the human race) are going.

- How humanity is supposed to know the difference between right and wrong

- Whether there is hope for planet earth.

- Whether there is hope for mankind.

*Scientism: Excessive belief in the power of scientific - knowledge and techniques. [Oxford Languages].

5. **IRONY #005. ATHEISTS NOT 'RELIGIOUS'.** Atheists insist that they are not religious and that they reject the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit; then, they go ahead and, for all intents and purposes, confess their blind belief in the concocted 'trinity' of Father TIME (for 'billions and billions of years'), Mother NATURE (for 'beneficial mutations', 'species 'adaptation', 'speciation', 'punctuated equilibrium', 'Lamarckism', 'natural selection/survival of the fittest', 'gene flow', genetic drift' etc.) and with their 'messiah of choice' ... Charles Darwin.

This is a quite disturbing, disingenuous stance on behalf of the atheists; I contend that atheists are religious and that Atheism per se is nothing more or less than just another (dysfunctional) suburban religious cult. Main reasons:

5.1 **Atheist fanaticism.** Atheists adhere to Atheism with religious zeal and fervour, sometimes unmatched even by the fanaticism of some religious groups: Remember the (Atheism-driven) Chinese purges during the communist uprisings in China, Pol Pot's killing fields, Stalin with his pogroms, Mussolini with his Fascism and Hitler with his Nazis and 'Eugenics', just to name a few?

5.2 **Atheists' use of religious terminology.** Atheists are often found to use terms like, *"We believe in Atheism!",* or, *"We believe in Evolution!"* (The word 'believe' is a term normally associated with religion, not with science. When a scientist thus says, *"I believe ..."* the listener must always realise that the scientist is engaged in *conjecturing*, not in the stating of a falsifiable scientific fact, and an unfalsifiable statement in the name of 'science' is not bona fide science.

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6. **IRONY #006. ATHEISM FOUNDED ON 'SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE'.** Atheists insist that Atheism is founded on 'superior knowledge' (i.e., as compared to knowledge derived from the Holy Scriptures) predicated upon such sacrosanct principles as *'the scientific method'* and *'empiricism';* then, they go ahead and invoke unfalsifiable so-called *evidence* for their position such as:

- the age of the Cosmos and the Galaxies (unfalsifiable because nobody can travel back in time 'billions of years' to cosmologically witness and verify their 'science', whether the information is true and valid or not).

- the age of the earth (because nobody can travel back in time 'billions/millions of years' to geologically witness and verify their 'science' whether the information is true and valid or not).

- the origin of the species and the first man on earth (because nobody can travel back in time 'millions of years' to biologically witness and verify their 'science').

P.S. Unfalsifiable information presented as 'factual evidence' is not 'science', but *conjecture* (an 'educated opinion') that has nothing to do with 'empiricism' or 'the scientific method' that always should demand 'falsifiable evidence'.

Atheists insist that their position as atheists is founded on superior academic, technical and scientific knowledge, and not on religious superstition or unverified scientific fact; then, they go ahead and admit that scientists still only know about 10% to 20% of what is going on in the oceans of the world, and only about 5% of what is going on the in the Universe, describing the rest (the 95% of the Universe that they still know nothing about) as *"undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter + dark energy".*

Honestly ... will the reader stake his life on a philosophy or science that knows only about 5% of what there is to know? Is it not entirely possible that the Creator of the Universe (that August Deity 'YHWH' they do not believe in and insult and deride at almost every opportunity) may be obscured from their observations and their view by the 95% of 'dark matter and dark energy' they still cannot fathom?

7. **IRONY #007. THE ATHEISTS' REJECTION OF THE 'TEN COMMANDMENTS'.** Atheists reject the 'Ten Commandments' as God's *Holy Moral Law* given as a *Moral Compass* for mankind to live and conduct his business by; but then, when the atheist's car gets stolen, or he is scammed of his million-rouble investment by some wily pyramid-scheme operator, he goes into a fit of rage and rushes to the nearest police precinct to report the theft and to obtain a case number for insurance purposes.

Just a minute before he had rejected the validity of the injunction that *'Thou shalt not steal';* now, suddenly, after it had become convenient for him to do so, he suddenly sees no problem in invoking the Commandment for his benefit and suing the 'perp' out of house and hearth.

8. **IRONY #008. ATHEISM AND MIRACLES.** Atheists, the ultimate materialists, just love the classical atheist's mantra of, *"Miracles are impossible!"* In fact, all of their science is probably founded on the principle of 'miracles are impossible'. Imagine how far the world would have progressed by now had scientists only had had more faith in the creativity of the unfettered human spirit that believed that anything in God's creation is possible. Think about it ... what would you think if the brightest, most learned, and gifted scientist in the world were to stand up and say, *"It is illegal to break the law!"(?).* Wouldn't it be non-sensical ... even downright funny? But then some of the world's most learned and gifted scientists will have the courage to stand up in public and in broad daylight, before God, holy angels and all of mankind and say totally non-sensical things like, *"Miracles are impossible!"* Some facts about miracles:

8.1 **The contradiction of 'impossible miracles'.** Miracles are *supposed* to be impossible, that is why they are called 'miracles' in the first place.

'Possible miracles' would be a contradiction in terms, because if certain events were always 'possible', they would not really be miracles, would they? Furthermore, the very term 'impossible miracle' defeats the very purpose for which the word 'miracle' was invented in the first place, i.e., to describe what usually would be considered an 'impossible' event' or occurrence that did, against all 'odds', after all, still manage to happen.

A common example is a man winning a lottery with a prize of say $100million ... wasn't it miraculous? What were the mathematical odds against him guessing the winning number? So, it would appear as if what the atheists are referring to as 'impossible' should rather be referred to as (mathematically) 'improbable'.

Creationists do not deny the fact of the existence of such things as 'highly improbable' events; however, every so now and then someone wins a lottery with almost 'impossible' (improbable) odds stacked against him/her.

8.2 **The Laws of Physics.** The argument that miracles are impossible because such events or occurrences would be in breach of the *'Natural Laws of Physics'* are also similarly non-sensical. In the first place are 'miracles' the very events that are in breach of the Laws of Physics, that is also why they are called 'miracles' in the first place. Events and occurrences that could not be in breach of the Laws of Physics would not qualify as miracles, would they? In other words, for a miracle to happen the first requirement would be for the existence of some law of physics that forbade it to happen. The very fact

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of the existence Laws of Physics is a non-negotiable prerequisite for miracles to happen, otherwise there could not be such a thing as a miracle.

8.3 **The Laws help us see the difference.** The Laws of Physics are our allies because they help us to recognise the difference between (i) an ordinary, possible event and (ii) an event that breaches the Laws of Physics (so-called 'miracles') otherwise we would never have been able to recognise a miracle or know the difference between ordinary, possible events and extraordinary, miraculous ('impossible' or 'improbable') events that, after all, sometimes do happen and against all odds too, I might add.

8.4 **No Laws, no Miracles.** It thus stands to reason that the existence of the Laws of Physics is a prerequisite for miracles to happen, because without such Laws (of which miracles are in breach of) there would be no Physical Laws to be in breach of and, consequently, everything under the sun (metaphorically speaking) would be possible and nothing would ever be a miracle, and that is not how life in the Universe works; just ask all the patriarchs, priests, faith heroes and prophets of the Old Testament and disciples, faith heroes and martyrs of the New Testament and beyond. So, instead of the Laws of Physics precluding the occurrence of miracles, the Laws are those very agents making miracles the things that they are today. It indeed is a matter of no such Laws, no miracles.

8.5 **The unknown Cosmos.** The very fact that scientists have acknowledged that they only know about 5% of what is going on in the Cosmos (of which planet earth and mankind are part and parcel of) with the remaining 95% being described as *'undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter + dark energy'* already affirms the possibility that, hidden in that unknown, undetectable 95%, may lie the very reason for miracles to be possible, i.e., some cosmic extension of the Laws of Physics far beyond the imagination of any scientist that had ever lived and just waiting to be either discovered by future scientists or revealed one day by courtesy of the Creator Himself.

Humanity is travelling on a huge cosmic learning curve, so how can we ever know what cosmic secrets, wonders and supernatural phenomena are still obscured from our view and from the scientists' observations by that mysterious veil called *'dark matter + dark energy'?* Do we really believe that we are going to remain stuck with the little pathetic kernel of the mighty preponderance of accumulated knowledge of only 5% forever?

Sometimes the atheists remind me of the illiterate pagan standing in a shop to buy food: Because of his illiteracy and ignorance about modernised commerce and trade, he has to buy each little item one by one, paying and receiving his change as he goes along until he is finished.

Similarly, the atheist has to painstakingly discover every little (natural) scientific wonder at his own deferred, stalling pace as he goes along, simply refusing to take the Creator upon His Word and learning by God's innovative shortcut methods (the Bible) about the Cosmos, Heaven, Earth, and the Hereafter. The upshot of all this is that, whereas the Bible remains the rock of immutability, permanency, and truth (still the world's bestseller of all times) science has to adapt and improve its theories and textbooks ever so often now and then as new, fresh (archaeological and geological) information about the earth and humankind's origins emerge.

8.6 **Miracles are not magic.** With the term 'miracle' is not meant the cheap magic of the circus illusionist, the sleight of hand of the oriental mystic and suburban charlatan, or the schoolboy's card tricks at the 'prom'. With that term we are referring to true, Biblical type miracles that may even still be happening from time to time to godly people today ... of that this author can amply testify.

Miracles cannot be demanded on order or conjured up by some magic potion or 'abracadabra' type gibberish; they are the prerogative and exclusive domain of the Creator, and are dispensed by Him at His discretion to those He may deem fit. Sometimes miracles may occur spontaneously, unexpectedly; at other times, through many days, weeks, months and even years of persistent prayers and supplications to God the Father, our Heavenly Father.

Rest assured, a God of His stature cannot be 'manipulated' into granting miracles to all and sundry left, right and centre, since no man on earth possesses the stature or cosmic gravitas to ever outsmart the Creator with His assumed I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient) of INFINITY to the power of Infinity. Also bear in mind that a wrong prayer unanswered has the same mathematical value as the right prayer answered. In both cases the person who prayed (the 'pray-er' or intercessor) probably was done a big favour.

8.7 **He who does not believe in miracles is not a realist.** To say 'miracles are impossible' is thus grammatically absurd, philosophically stupid, and theologically incorrect. Just read the Bible, start praying and you may soon discover what I mean. The very reason that atheists 'believe' that 'miracles are impossible' lies in the very negative words of denial they speak; after all, how does anyone who confesses unbelief in miracles purport to ever see or experience a miracle? *They are what they 'believe'!* So, they will, at best, only see and experience what they say, confess and believe in ... NOTHING.

The secret to seeing and experiencing miracles lies in the holy words and promises of the Bible, the very things that atheists outright dismiss and reject as obsolete and redundant mythical Jewish hocus-pocus, and thereby so

checkmate themselves, creating their very own 'Catch22' from which it is impossible to escape unless they make that complete volte face and decide to call upon the Miracle-Maker Himself.

Without faith it is impossible to please God! It may behove some atheists to go home and for themselves write out the Scripture reference below ten times or so:

> *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is [EXISTS] and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*
> [Hebrews11:6MKJV].

9. **IRONY #009. ATHEISTS AND 'INTELLIGENT DESIGN'.** Atheists in general vehemently deny and reject the idea of 'Intelligent Design' (in other words, an 'intelligently designed' creation created by the Intelligent Designer God of the Bible) in Nature, but, instead will insist on the blind forces of random, brainless 'Evolution' as the reason everything exists (their classic confession of faith, i.e., the Evolution sponsored 'virgin birth' of the Universe); then, they go ahead and make no secret of the fact that they only appoint learned people with solid academic credentials and bona fide, accredited qualifications from accredited universities in posts and positions of any importance at their institutions.

For instance, when it comes to appointing incumbents, they make no secret that they have a preference for people with excellent academic references and credentials such as university degrees, advanced degrees, doctorates and even post-doctorate qualifications. Suddenly the objection to 'intelligent design' has evaporated into thin air and, instead, miraculously, as if by some mysterious medieval alchemy, it has been replaced by the 'intelligent design' of intelligently designed university qualifications and *curriculum vitae* (the 'resumé') as the ultimate norm for excellence and the magic guarantor of a quality education.

To add further philosophical insult to their own cause, they have no qualms about using the tools and instruments of 'intelligent design' to intelligently ply their trade, e.g. intelligently designed, state-of-the-art, million-dollar laboratories and research facilities; intelligently designed scientific instruments like telescopes, microscopes, spectroscopes, Bunsen-burners, test-tubes, calculators, slide rules, computers, information technology & computer software, graphic design, GPS, satellite technology, rockets, satellites, space stations, science journals, books, textbooks, encyclopaedias, training manuals, university curriculums, theses and dissertations, lecture rooms, television, radio, telephones, e-mail, the Internet, iPads, cellphones; intelligently designed Internet and websites & blogs, museums, species classification, palaeontological excavations etc.

Atheists, the deniers of intelligent design in nature and of any existence of an Intelligent Designer, in reality are consummate artists and experts in the field of intelligent design.

10. **IRONY #010. ATHEISTS AND THE BIBLE.** Atheists dismiss the Bible as obsolete and redundant, objecting that it is a book *'too old and ancient'* for lovers and adherents of 'rational modern science' to rely on as a source of credible information about the origins of mankind and the world; then, they go ahead and present their position predicated upon (unfalsifiable) 'facts' even *older and far more ancient* than the Bible (and actually expect us to accept their unfalsifiable statements/facts at face value) e.g.:

10.1 **Palaeontology.** The field of study of *palaeontology* biologically traces mankind's primitive origins to *millions of years* back into the remote past (as compared to the so-called 'old and ancient Bible' that is only a few thousand years old).

10.2 **Geology.** The field of study of *geology* traces the age of the earth back *4,54 billion years* ((as compared to the so-called 'old and ancient Bible' that is only a few thousand years old).

10.3 **Astronomy.** The field of study of *astronomy/cosmology* traces the age of the Universe back *13,7 billion years* (as compared to the so-called 'old and ancient Bible' that is only a few thousand years old), thus begging the question:

Who really are the ones investing in ancient, archaic and antiquated (and perhaps redundant and obsolete) information here?

11. **IRONY #011. ATHEISTS AND THE HEREAFTER.** Atheists dismiss the idea of a Hereafter, a Holy God, eternal rest, and peace for those who fear God and retribution (punishment) in the Hereafter for those whom the Bible calls the 'ungodly' and the 'wicked'; then, the very people who revel in science, the power of the intellect and rational observation, go and neglect to observe that Atheism cannot win but can only lose out in the long run. i.e., that there are, in the final analysis, no future advantages and/or benefits for Atheism and atheists in the offing:

11.1 **Should the atheist be wrong.** Should the atheist in the long run and at the end of the day be proved to have been WRONG all the time, they will receive, in the Hereafter, the fitting retribution from a Holy Creator God in whom they refused to believe for so long, a thought not only too ghastly to contemplate, but also too ghastly *not* too contemplate!

11.2 **Should the atheist be right.** Should the atheist in the long run at the end of the day be proved to have been RIGHT, he will anyway still only receive the reward for having been RIGHT all the time, i.e., *nothing*. (Whereas Bible-believers believe in LIFE-after-death, atheists believe in DEATH-after-death, i.e., *nothing).* In fact, Stephen Hawking has, ironically, ended his meteoric career with a book titled *'The Theory of Nothing'.*

So, why anyone in his right mind would want to live by such a morbid and depressing philosophical code, religious cult, or pseudo-theological position as 'Atheism' boggles the rational mind. There can only be one rational explanation: Atheists suffer from *clinical depression,* not from *Atheism,* hence all the vitriolic invectives (with the blasphemy and profanity that accompany it), anger, bitterness, and cynicism.

Despite all the advances in modern psychology, psychoanalysis, and psychotherapy, I have yet to meet a grateful, happy, and fulfilled atheist. Such secular advances do not come close to beating the enormous spiritual value of intercessory prayer, Bible reading and a relationship with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. That is the TRUE WEALTH that money cannot buy.

12. **IRONY #12. ATHEISM AND 'ABSOLUTE TRUTH'.** Atheism is founded upon such secular humanist values as *'moral relativism'* and *'situational ethics',* whereas Christians and orthodox Jews believe in a Holy God and God's *Absolute Truth* as articulated by the Bible (i.e., the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, and the New Testament). The great and inexplicable irony is that Atheists reject the idea of a Holy God and the sacrosanct principle of 'Absolute Truth' ... except for the absolute truth of Atheism.

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17 ATHEISMS' 'CATCH-22'

1. **Introduction.** This article will address the four 'Catch-22' factors plus advice on how to escape such a 'Catch-22' impasse:

- the AGE factor.

- the HELPLESSNESS factor.

- the FOOLISHNESS factor.

- the PRIDE factor.

- ESCAPING 'Catch-22'.

1.1 **The AGE factor.** AGE is a critical factor to consider. Here's the problem: As time goes by, the older an unrepentant person becomes and the longer he/she waits to repent and make his/her peace with God, the more sin he/she has accumulated to repent from and (ii) the less time he has left to do it in.

So, as time goes by, this person is daily compounding his/her problem further until (i.e., if he/she never repents and/or makes his/her peace with God) he/she has waited too long and now, having accumulated such an oppressing number of crimes and/or sins for so long, he/she eventually has no more time (nor the will) left to repent in to make his/her peace with God. The Bible warns:

> *"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."*
>
> [Ecclesiastes 12:1KJV].

1.2 **The HELPLESSNESS factor.** The older a person becomes and the weaker or more feeble he/she grows because of old age (or illness), the less he/she is able to reach out for help in his/her own strength, or, the less he/she is able to lift himself/herself up by his/her own bootstraps from the morass of accumulated crimes and sins or lifelong bad and dysfunctional habits and practices (e.g. atheism or agnosticism etc.) he/she finds himself/herself bogged down in.

The weaker he/she is, the more he/she stands in need of the Saviour (Jesus Christ) to save him/her and salvage his/her life; yet, at the

same time, the weaker he/she had become and less able (or willing) to ask Jesus to help him/her. The Bible warns:

> *"And call on Me in the day of trouble; and I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*
>
> [Psalm 50:15MKJV].

1.3 **The FOOLISHNESS factor.** If a person never reads the Bible and refuses to believe in and repent to GOD, he/she is (according to the Bible) foolish, for the simple reason that he/she will have no wisdom, because he/she does not fear GOD. God's formula: Fear of God > Knowledge > Wisdom.

In other words, the more foolish he/she is, the less he/she will fear GOD and the less he/she fears God the less wisdom he/she will have; in other words ... the more he/she needs GOD yet the less he/she will be inclined or capable of asking for His help. The Bible warns:

> *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."*
>
> [Psalm 111:10aKJV].
>
> *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
>
> [Proverbs1:7KJV].

1.4 **The PRIDE factor.** The door out of the prison-cell and 'Catch-22' of Atheism is locked from the inside by the key *pride;* the atheist can leave it any time he/she wants to but 'wanting to' would demand from him/her to *renounce atheism*, a public embarrassment in front of peers of which the thought probably is too ghastly for him/her to contemplate. The Bible teaches:

> **"***Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*
>
> [Proverbs16:18KJV].

3. **Escaping the 'Catch-22' impasse.** The answer is humility, respect for God's Word and repentance.

> *"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the* ***LORD****: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."*
>
> [Isaiah66:2KJV].

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18. THERE IS HOPE FOR ATHEISTS

1. **Proposition #1. God wants everybody to be saved.**

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

[1Timothy2:3-4MKJV].

2. **Proposition #2. God invites even the atheists to come to Him today for Salvation.**

"Come now, and let us reason together, says Jehovah; though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool."

[Isaiah1:18MKJV].

3. **Proposition #3. God has the prerogative and right to show mercy.**

"And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will have mercy on whom I will have mercy."

[Exodus33:19bMKJV].

4. **Proposition #4. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

[James4:6MKJV].

5. **Proposition #5. The wages of sin is death.**

"For the wages of sin is death ..."

[Romans6:23aMKJV].

6. **Proposition #6. All men ('people') have sinned.**

"...for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

[Romans3:23MKJV].

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7. **Proposition #7. The Gift of God is Everlasting Life through Jesus Christ our LORD.**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

[Romans6:23MKJV].

8. **Proposition #8. Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners.**

"Faithful is the Word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ..."

[1Timothy1:15MKJV].

9. **Proposition #9. God did not send Jesus Christ to condemn the world.**

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."

[John3:17MKJV].

10. **Proposition #10. Jesus Christ is the only Name by which the world can be saved.**

"And there is salvation in no other One; for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

[Acts4:12MKJV].

11. **Proposition #11. Christianity is not for Christians only; if atheists were to confess the Name of Jesus Christ they would also be saved.**

"Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

[Romans10:9MKJV].

12. **Proposition #12. There is joy in Heaven over one sinner (including the atheist) who repents.**

"Likewise I say to you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

[Luke15:10MKJV].

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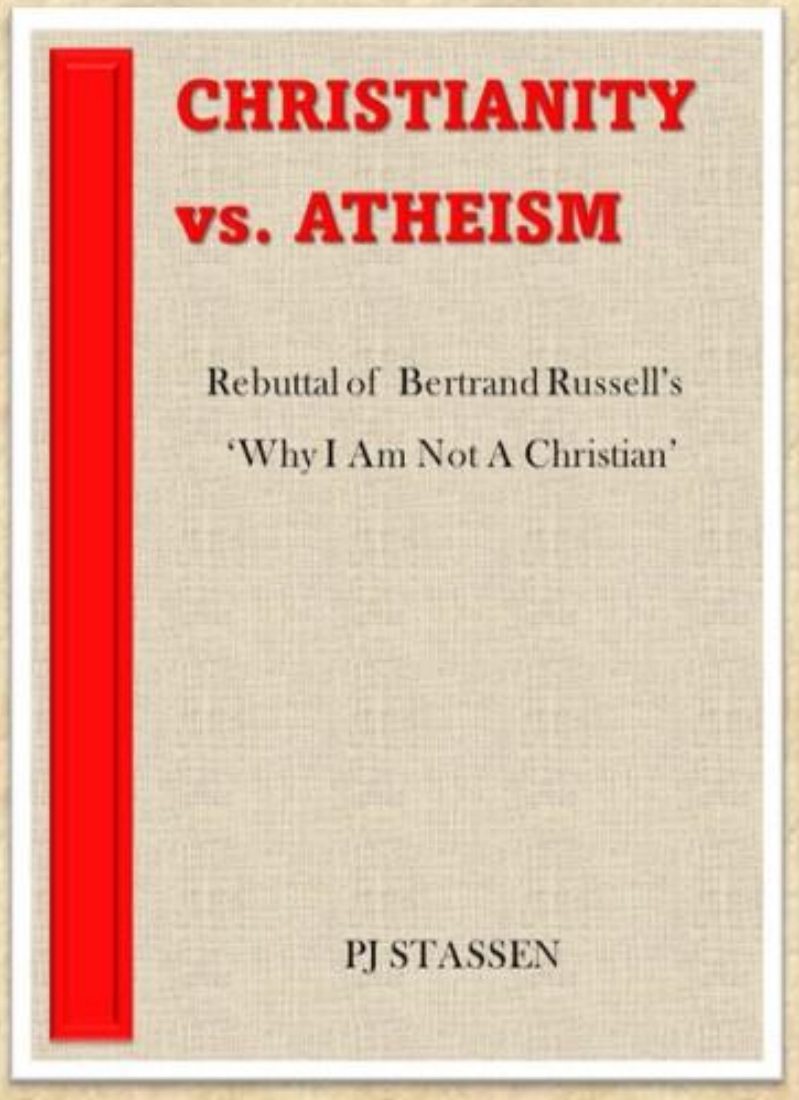
AUTHOR PROFILE

P. J. Stassen, born in 1947 in Randgate, South Africa, holds a B.A. degree in Industrial Psychology & Sociology (Industrial) from the University of South Africa. A former businessman who, after mandatory military conscription, spent the first 12 years of his life in 1966 in the field of retail (Textiles & General Dealer) in a family business begun by his father in 1964, thereafter worked at various other jobs eventually arriving in the fulfilling position of a corporate trainer with *Kumba Resources* (formerly *Iscor Iron Ore Mine*) in the Bushveldt region of South Africa during the years 1986 and 1997. At the time of his retirement in 2013 he was engaged in *Occupational Health & Safety Training* in the corporate environment on a contract basis for a Johannesburg company.

P.J. Stassen and his wife are both retired and live in Centurion, South Africa after having also served in their capacities as gospel musicians (pianist & organist respectively) in churches in two of South Africa's nine provinces, e.g., in places like Vanderbijlpark, Bloemfontein, Thabazimbi, Sinoville and Centurion.



Christianity. "Major religion stemming from the life, teachings, and death of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ, or the Anointed One of God) in the 1st century CE*. It has become the largest of the world's religions and, geographically, the most widely diffused of all faiths. It has a constituency of more than two billion believers." (Britannica.com).

*1st Century AD.

Atheism. "Atheism is a critique and a denial of the central metaphysical beliefs of systems of salvation involving a belief in God or spiritual beings, but a sophisticated atheist does not simply claim that all such cosmological claims are false but takes it that some are so problematic that, while purporting to be factual, they actually do not succeed in making a coherent factual claim." (Britannica.com).

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